Daily Report

Latin America

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Cuba

Havana Reportage on Attempted Coup in Panama

Noriega Retirement Reported

FL0310180589 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Text] The forced retirement of General Manuel Antonio Noriega was decreed today by young officers of the Panama Defense Forces [FDP]. A Panamanian national radio network broadcast today the decision which was reported by a representative of a movement which occupied Ft Amador this morning.

The communique also reports that all members of the FDP General Staff who have over 25 years of service have also been forced to retire.

Prior press cables had reported on the shootings which occurred this morning at the FDP Headquarters. The reports also refer to the general state of alert declared for the Dignity Battalions and the Committees for the Defense of the Fatherland and Dignity. It was also reported that the U.S. South Command has placed its troops in the Panama Canal on maximum alert.

Panamanian News Chief Interview

FL0410014289 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2306 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Telephone interview with Julio Ortega, Panamanian channel 2 television news director, by "Exclusivo" program host Daniel Torres—live]

[Text] [Torres] Due to the latest events in Panama, we decided to call you so that you could give us a report, a chronological account of the most recent events that have taken place in your country.

[Ortega] Thank you, Daniel, for this opportunity to inform the Cuban people through Radio Rebelde. I will try to be as concise as possible. I will begin telling you that around 0800, Panamanian time, strong bursts of machinegun and shots of high-caliber weapons and even some blasts were heard inside the Panama Defense Forces [FDP] Headquarters. Of course, this immediately brought up a number of questions and expectancies. A truly interesting situation was created. Telephone switchboards were congested because of the numerous calls from people who wanted to know what was going on. The situation was confusing. It was obvious that a confrontation among the military was taking place inside the FDP Headquarters.

Approximately at 1100, Panamanian time, three of the military members who took part in the uprising took the national radio for brief moments and read an announcement in which they reported the retirement of most of the General Staff and General Noriega himself. Then, they left the radio station. They did the same thing at another radio station in the area. According to what we have been able to find out, the rebel group is headed by Major Moises Giroldi Vera, who is the chief of the Urraca Company, which is the one that is responsible for security and protection to the garrison they attacked. With this situation, it was clear that there was an uprising of a small number of military members. In their message they mentioned Captain Javier Licona, Captain Edgardo Sandoval, and Captain Jesus George Balma, who later in an interview he granted us denied that he was involved in the uprising and said he was at the garrison at the disposition of the commander and the FDP General Staff.

The situation began to clear up around noon but the whereabouts of Gen Manuel Antonio Noriega was not known. The question was, what had been the fate of Gen Noriega, who was supposed to have been inside the garrison when the uprising of the three military men—one major and two captains—took place. Around noon, two members of the General Staff, Lieutenant Colonel Arnulfo Castrejon and Captain Moises Cortizo contacted us and reported that they were communicating by radio with Gen Noriega, who was personally directing the operations to suppress the uprising of the three military members who had rebelled this morning.

Around 1530, we were able to interview Gen Noriega for the television and were able to confirm that he is in perfect health and that he is at the head of all control operations. The city is completely calm. Those who rebelled have been subdued. They have handed over their weapons. Everything is under control in the Republic of Panama. Traffic is normal. Of course, some commercial establishments had closed their doors because of the shooting and tension. Many people went home. But, the city is under control at this time. Gen Noriega is safe and sound.

I am receiving some reports from the international press which indicate that Gen Noriega has the situation under control.

I was able to personally talk with Gen Noriega at 1530, Panamanian time. He made some remarks and told me that what happened was part of a new U.S. plan to destabilize Panama and continue maintaining the pressure it had maintained since the movement begun by President George Bush's administration to not comply with the canal treaties. Gen Noriega said he had reports 2 weeks ago that this was going to happen and that they were infiltrating the midlevel commands to try to provoke the situation that took place today. But he said the loyal forces, most of the garrisons, all the troops, and all the military zones in all the provinces are in total order and order is maintained in the entire country at this time.

This is the chronological report I can give you of what has happened in approximately the last 18 to 20 hours in the Republic of Panama.

[Torres] Julio, aside from the interview you personally held with Gen Noriega, has it been announced that he is

going to make an appearance on the national television or radio? Has an official statement been made?

[Ortega] I had the opportunity to interview him in front of the television cameras and he made statements the Panamanian people are watching at this time. Several foreign correspondents—I understand that also the Cuban television, the Cuban television correspondents have approached us as well as U.S. television such as CNN, NBC, ABC, and all the world television networks—are asking for the footage in which Gen Noriega makes these statements. This clarifies the rumors that he was wounded in that failed insubordination action within the FDP.

[Torres] Thank you very much Julio Ortega, news director of the Panamanian television channel 2 for making this live contact for Rebelde's "Exclusivo."

Correspondent Report From Panama

PA0410040589 Havana International Service in Spanish 0015 GMT 4 Oct 89

[Report by Nelson Notario Castro]

[Text] Here in Panama we are tuning in to our friends at Radio Havana Cuba.

The top leadership of the Panama Defense Forces [FDP] announced this afternoon that the coup attempt was foiled and that the rebels had surrendered.

The FDP leadership also announced that President Francisco Rodriguez released this information at the UN General Assembly. This afternoon President Rodriguez addressed the top world organization.

Here is the communique on the unsuccessful coup attempt as released by the government television station, channel 2. Let us listen:

[Begin recording of Panama City Televisora Nacional announcer] We repeat a last-minute report. According to reports we have just received, the coup attempt ended with the coupists' surrender. General Manuel Antonio Noriega is heading all the operations at the FDP. [end recording]

Even though the U.S. Southern Command, comprising all Yankee troops based in Panama, has said its units were not involved in the conflict, photos released by the international media deny the U.S. allegations. Reconnaissance helicopters overflew the FDP Headquarters. Cobra helicopters also flew over the headquarters, while combat and cargo C-130 planes have constantly been overflying the capital city and the FDP Headquarters. Currently, U.S. planes continue to overfly Panamanian airspace.

Meanwhile, thousands of messages of support for Gen Noriega and for Panamanian patriots are coming in from all over the country. Panamanian people are saying they are supporting Noriega, the Dignity Battalions, and the Panamanian patriots in this nationalist struggle for the recovery of the Panama Canal, which is now in the hands of the U.S. troops and which will remain under U.S. control until the year 2000. Beginning then, the canal will be run by Panamanians according to the Torrijos-Carter treaties.

I repeat to all listeners of Radio Havana Cuba in Latin America and the entire world that the top leadership of the FDP has announced that the coup attemp was foiled and that the coupists have surrendered. The official report also adds that Noriega is heading all operations.

AFP: Shevardnazde Visit Termed 'Delicate'

PA0310170889 Paris AFP in Spanish 1433 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Text] Havana 3 Oct (AFP)—Observers in Havana are predicting that the stopover visit to Cuba by Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze may be delicate, since, according to diplomatic sources, Cuba has just acknowledged it recently sent light weapons to Nicaragua.

Shevardnadze is expected to arrive in Managua today, 3 October. On 4 October he will fly to Havana for a 24-hour visit.

The shipment of weapons to Central America from communist countries was one of the major topics of the meeting between the Soviet foreign minister and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

The United States wants the USSR to adhere to its decision not to send weapons to Nicaragua and to pressure its allies to do likewise.

President Fidel Castro, according to diplomatic sources, agrees with the Soviet stance so long as all the sides abide by it, including the United States, which has arsenals and provides weapons to its allies in the region.

Observers feel Castro will undoubtedly be Shevardnadze's chief interlocutor during the minister's visit to Cuba.

According to sources, the Cuban leader confirmed Cuba recently sent the Sandinist government light infantry weapons and ammunition, without explaining if the delivery was made with Soviet consent.

According to these sources, Castro tried to give the impression this was not the case by stressing that those weapons had been in Cuban hands for a long time. They noted Castro categorically denied Cuba sent helicopters to Nicaragua, as reports from the United States indicated.

The last time Castro talked in public about the weapons the USSR supplies Cuba was 7 years ago, the observers indicated. In a speech carried by GRANMA newspaper in December 1982, Castro said the Cuban - Soviet agreements "contain clauses saying that we cannot reexport weapons."

"Cuba has never reexported Soviet weapons or donations of Soviet weapons to another country. Soviet weapons have never been given to the revolutionary movement [not further identified] . . . we keep our agreements," Castro said on that occasion.

The United States is accusing communist countries of increasing their supply of weapons to Nicaragua, countering the Central American peace plans, and it is suggesting that those deliveries are reaching El Salvador's Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front guerrillas.

Commentary Demands Respect for Regime

FL0310215989 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 2 Oct 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] The staunchest defenders of political pluralism do not tolerate the existence of a regime that is different from the one they advocate such as Cuba's. People who couldn't even locate our country on a map, all of a sudden have turned into the greatest champions of the Cuban people. They recommend this and that reform. They give their advice without being asked and even demand that we imitate others as if a country's problems could be solved in the same way fashion is adopted.

Some friends even lament the existence of Cuba's sociopolitical regime at the same time they celebrate with bright colors the bourgeois democracy. Cuba respects the regime of each country and the reforms each government considers convenient to implement. But, since Cuba is an independent and sovereign republic, it demands the same respect for itself. It cannot give up this right.

We will implement our own reforms and rectifications and will have the kind of democracy our people have elected freely. In addition, Cuba knows about the democracy we are told about. It lived in that lie for over 50 years and knows its consequences. We will never go back to that fiction. The democracy of the exploiters will never be good to the exploited. If this were not so, simply look around.

What has this hackneyed democracy done to benefit Latin America in a century? It has resulted in colonized nations. Modern colonizers imposed on us their democracy and put us to sleep with their mirage. But, poor countries have to live and develop, above all, based on their own effort. They do not have colonies or economic, political, or military weight to subjugate anyone. This is not the democracy that is in line with our interests. Gentlemen, Cuba got rid of this trap a long time ago. Don't try to come up with that story now.

Lionel Soto Meets Deng Xiaoping in Beijing

FL0310142189 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Text] Lionel Soto, secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] Central Committee, who is on an official visit to the PRC, has conveyed greetings to the leader of that nation, Deng Xiaoping, on behalf of the Cuban party and people on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Republic.

The Chinese leader expressed his gratitude for the message and sent greetings to President Fidel Castro.

The meeting took place during the ceremony that was held in Tiananmen Square where approximately 100,000 people gathered to celebrate the historic date.

The PCC delegation visited Sun Yat-sen Park in Beijing as well as the Great Wall of China.

Commentary on Situation in GDR Reported

FL0310225989 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1912 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Text] Those who travel to Berlin, the GDR capital, in the middle of the Western press' news avalanche on the illegal departures to the FRG, perhaps expect to find the atmosphere there tense. A PRENSA LATINA commentary, however, says in reality the situation there is very different because the issue of the so-called refugees is far from disturbing the peace in the GDR which is at the start of its 40th anniversary.

On the other hand, the news agency notes the economic and social achievements of the GDR and stresses that this nation is among the top 10 industrialized countries in the world. An eloquent example of progress in the GDR is the growth of its national network that 40 years ago barely reached $12 billion and today it is near $135 billion, says PRENSA LATINA in its commentary. [sentence as heard]

Castro Sends Greetings to Bulgaria's Zhivkov

FL0310131489 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Text] A warm greeting from Commander in Chief Fidel Castro Ruz has been sent to the highest Bulgarian leader, Todor Zhivkov. The message was conveyed to Zhivkov by Jorge Risquet Valdes, Politburo member and secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee, who is visiting Bulgaria.

During a meeting in Sophia, Zhivkov and Risquet discussed matters related to the current international situation and Cuban-Bulgarian relations which they termed as excellent and becoming closer every day.

Some of the subjects Cuba and Bulgaria agreed on during this meeting was to confront the attempt by imperialists to discredit socialism and to intervene in the internal affairs of nations and their systems. They also agreed on the need to strengthen the unity of communist and labor parties.

Jorge Risquet and Todor Zhivkov also reiterated the support of Cuba and Bulgaria for the just solution to the foreign debt and for the establishment of a new international economic order.

Guyana Prime Minister Green Continues Visit

Grants Press Conference

FL0310134289 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Text] The level the Cuban health system has attained during the last 30 years has constituted the health miracle of the world. This was stated by Hamilton Green, prime minister of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, during a press conference last night.

The Guyanese prime minister expressed his admiration for the services provided by the Cuban health program which he termed as exemplary.

Subjects discussed during the conference were the foreign debt and the way in which his country confronts it, the current economic situation of that Caribbean area, and relations between Cuba and his country.

Green said that cooperation, as corresponds to developing countries, must be based on the respective potential of each country and by making optimum use of its resources. He added: A Third World country, such as this one, which has taken such firm steps reflects the concern of its government.

The press conference was also attended by Harold Sakadeo and Omar Mendoza, Guyana and Cuban ambassadors, respectively.

Meets Castro at Reception

FL0310183389 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] Central Committee and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, last night attended the reception given in honor of Hamilton Green, prime minister of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana.

The reception was hosted by Harold Sakadeo, Guyanese ambassador to Cuba. The event was also attended by Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, member of the PCC Central Committee Politburo and vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers; Ernesto Melendez, minister president of the State Committee for Economic Cooperation; and Jose Viera, acting foreign minister.

President Fidel Castro and Green discussed various topics relating to international current events, as well as other subjects of interest.

Visits School

FL0410021989 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 4 Oct 89

[Text] This afternoon, Hamilton Green, prime minister of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, visited the pre-university institute in the countryside named after his country located in Guira de Melena Municipality, Havana Province. [students chant: Cuba, Guyana are certainly sisters]

During his tour through the school, the Guyanese leader talked to teachers and students. He showed interest in the classes taught, sports that are practiced, and productive tasks the young students carry out as part of their comprehensive training.

[Begin student recording] I also want to tell you that we are also happy that you have felt good in our school with the students and teachers. [end recording]

At the end of the visit, Hamilton Green said:

[Begin recording in English with simultaneous Spanish translation] It is an excellent facility; I think one that many Third World countries can do well to emulate. I found a spirit of comradeship among the children. They were eager and just pleasantly noisy as any school child should be. The teachers seem extremely dedicated and they are obviously providing some leadership. I am glad I came. [end recording]

Prime Minister Green also met today with Ernesto Melendes, minister president of the State Committee for Economic Cooperation. Important aspects of the economic development of Cuba and Guyana were discussed during the meeting. Harold Sakadeo and Omar Mendoza, ambassadors of the two countries were also present.

The progress of economic cooperation, trade, and the maximum results of the work our specialists are doing in the Caribbean country were also dealt with during the talks. The Guyanese prime minister expressed his interest of including the pharmaceutical and medical equipment industries in the cooperation projects. Likewise, he said the Cuban experience in the field of sports would be very useful for the development of this sphere in Guyana.

This meeting ratified the interest to continue cooperating based on the maximum use of the resources of the two countries. This subject will be included in the agenda of the joint commission which will meet in Cuba at the beginning of next year.

MINFAR Discuss Pinar del Rio Maneuvers

FL0410023789 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 4 Oct 89

[Text] Today in Pinar de Rio began [words indistinct] of the Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR] to the provinces

that will participate in the "30th Anniversary of the Triumph of the Revolution" maneuvers.

The Revolutionary Armed Forces Ministry [MINFAR] commission is headed by Brigade General Urbelino Betancourt Cruz and composed of other generals and officers. Division General Ramon Pardo Guerra, chief of the Western Army, and other generals and officers of his General Staff, as well as leaders of the party and government in the western provinces also participated.

Between 3 and 6 October, the MINFAR leadership will check the preparations made for the maneuver that will take place in the Provinces of Pinar del Rio, Havana, and Havana City. The chiefs of the Western Army has been working for months in those territories to prepare the maneuvers.

The inspection began in Pinar del Rio this afternoon with the welcoming at the provincial General Staff. Gen Urbelino Betancourt explained the various stages and tactical exercises of the maneuver and Fidel Ramos, chief of the provincial defense council, gave greetings on behalf of his territory.

The tactical exercises to prepare for the "30th Anniversary" maneuvers will begin in this territory tomorrow.

Eastern Army Military Council Meets in Holguin

FL0410024889 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 4 Oct 89

[Text] The Eastern Army Military Council has held a meeting in Holguin. Reports were made on the political, patriotic, and internationalist work. The meeting was presided over by Division General Ramon Espinosa Martin, chief of the Eastern Army, and the top party leaders of the eastern provinces and Camaguey. The joint work of the party and the military institution was discussed in order to obtain better results in defense tasks, especially to the political, patriotic, and internationalist work.

They also discussed subjects related to the economy and the preparedness of the country for all the people's war. It was reported that Holguin and Camaguey Provinces achieved good results in recruitment efforts during the first half of the year. The subject of reforestry was also discussed during the meeting. Santiago de Cuba is doubling its efforts on this to fulfill its goals set for up to December.

Matanzas Man Sentenced to 7 Years Imprisonment

FL2909155489 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 2230 GMT 28 Sep 89

[Police report]

[Text] We have received a report from Matanzas Province indicating that citizen Ebelardo Hernandez Angarica, who resides at 112 Pedro Arrieta St in Perico Municipality, Matanzas, and has a criminal and a terrible social behavior record, was arrested for being directly responsible of breaking and entering on a continuous basis. The Varadero National Revolutionary Police had issued this individual an official warning for bothering tourists and prowling in that beach city without having a known address.

Despite the authorities' warnings, this wrongdoer went to a National Tourism Institute facility located at Playa Ave and, noting it was empty, broke a window and entered the building. He removed items of clothing and a radio receiver. Not happy with this criminal action, he later went to the Reparto Granma bungalows and forced the lock on one of them. This time, he took clothing and other articles.

As he was hiding the stolen goods in the shrubs next to the Varadero highway, he was surprised by several citizens, who seized him and took him to the appropriate police station.

During the oral hearing held against Hernandez Angarica, the Matanzas Provincial People's Tribunal sentenced him to 7 years in prison for breaking and entering on a continuous basis. This was filed as Case 199 of 1989 in that judicial organ. As a civil responsibility, he was also ordered to pay 447 pesos in restitution to one of the victims because the victims' possessions could not be recovered.

Dominican Republic

Demonstration Held Over Doubling of Bus Fares

FL0310153289 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Text] Protest demonstrations have broken out in the Dominican Republic after a sudden doubling of bus fares. The fares were increased after the government sharply increased the price of gasoline from 66 to 94 cents a gallon. The state oil company says the price increases are needed to offset its heavy burdens.

Consumers reacted by putting up burning barricades and stoning cars. However, no injuries or arrests were reported.

Gas Price Hike Protested

PA0410042989 Paris AFP in Spanish 2107 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Text] Santo Domingo, 3 Oct (AFP) - Several violent demonstrations took place today in the Dominican Republic while the labor unions are meeting in permanent session and, it was reported here, are contemplating a call for a general strike to protest a 66-percent hike in the price of gasoline.

At 1600 today (2000 GMT), newsmen saw groups of students throwing Molotov cocktails and rocks at the

police and breaking the showcases of businesses in the vicinity of the university campus.

Students from the Autonomous University of Santo Domingo used tires to set up barricades and then set them on fire. They also threw trash into the streets leading to the campus and hurled stones at the government's youth affairs office, causing serious damage. The police retaliated by firing tear gas canisters at the students.

Meanwhile, radio accounts reported that groups of demonstrators attacked food delivery trucks in San Francisco de Macoris, 80 km east of Santo Domingo.

The labor unions, which are in permanent session, have announced that this week they will implement a plan of struggle to demand that the price hike be revoked.

The price of gasoline went from 3.60 pesos (some 60 U.S. cents) to 6 pesos (some 95 U.S. cents) per gallon (3.8 liters), and this prompted an immediate 100-percent increase in public bus fares.

The government of President Joaquin Balaguer explained that the increase was necessary "because the Central Bank is short of cash and the country has to pay its oil debt with Venezuela ($226.8 million)" to ensure a continued supply of oil.

Haiti

Avril Urges End to Insecurity at Court Ceremony

FL0310173489 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Excerpts] Yesterday, 2 October, the various courts here in Port-au-Prince resumed operations. There was a special ceremony at the Law Courts. [passage omitted]

This gathering was presided over by the president of the Court of Cassation, Gilbert Austin, who said in his speech that he felt that it was now time for the courts to reach fully independent decisions, with no consideration other than to make sure that justice was dispensed properly to all.

We should not be afraid, nor do we have a right to seek any personal advantages in connection with the rulings we hand down, added Austin.

It seems the president of the Court of Cassation was not in favor of the strike because in his speech he asked that the leaders of political parties give the nation a break and not call strikes. He referred to Lech Walesa, in Poland, who has asked political parties not to strike for a period of 2 years.

[Begin Austin recording, in French] [Passage omitted] I wish the leaders of my country could feel the same way. I wish they would give our country a break, because in the final analysis, the government is obliged to disbelieve the legitimacy of certain demands.

Yes, the cost of living is high. Who can contest this? However, it is not by irresponsibly applauding the success of a strike that we are going to provide relief for the Haitian people's poverty! We must do our utmost to increase production, so as to become less dependent on foreign aid. We must all work to create an atmosphere of peace, so as to favor the establishment of new (?industries) here at home. [end recording]

Austin, however, did not highlight the cause of the high cost of living, nor did he specify who these "we" who should work to increase production and favor industry are. Neither did he specify what path these "we" are going to take in order to carry out what he proposed.

Finally, Austin said he was pleased to learn that certain political groups had formed alliances. He prayed these alliances would be a true union to pull the nation up out of underdevelopment.

For his part, the public prosecutor stressed that the state owes the citizenry justice, saying that Caesar should be given his due. [passage omitted]

Pierre C. Labissiere, the president of the Order of Lawyers, spoke of Article 284 of the Code of Civil Procedure, which judges and notaries use daily but which is not always respected. He also said judgments are not handed down in the name of the government but rather in the name of the Republic. He said, too, that Articles 149 and 150 of the Penal Code provide for sanctions for any and all public employees. Labissiere, said ,however, that judges flee such cases, because there is a matter of force that comes up in such cases.

[Begin Labissiere recording, in French] As for the (?commanders) of the police [la force publique], the matter is more complicated. Here it is a case of might makes right opposing the force of law. [C'est l'opposition du droit de la force a la force du droit.] We must admit that this does not happen often. When such a situation does arise, however, the matter is serious, very serious—because such opposition is illegal and arbitrary. We have (?seen) the court system put to flight by the police [la force publique]. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Thus, Labissiere asked that all laws be applied regardless of what sector of the society is involved.

The last figure to speak at the ceremony was the president of the military government, Lieutenant General Prosper Avril.

Gen Avril said the courts have to operate freely and courageously, so that the government itself can (?submit to) the law. The president also talked about the insecurity that has spread throughout Haiti, saying he feels that solving this problem of insecurity is everybody's business.

[Begin Avril recording] The burden of ensuring that the transition to democracy is a success lies on the shoulders of all the nation's children, all together—so that we can obtain a single result: to save our country. In order for us to do this, we must, all together, attack this business of

insecurity that is turning our country topsy-turvy. It is for this reason that I am taking advantage of my presence here at the Law Courts to sound the conch shell to assembly and issue a call to all sectors of Haiti so that we can uproot this illness, which is not compatible with the mores of the Haitian people.

We are going to reinforce everything we ourselves have already done in order to solve this problem. However, during the coming elections, we would like to remind everyone that the problem of insecurity is not exclusively the business of the Army and the courts. It is everybody's business: the Army's, the courts', political parties', socio-professional organizations', religious organizations', unions', political and cultural groups'! It is thus the business of all men and all women in Haiti.

We in the executive are open to dialogue. We are open to concerted action. We are ready to listen to any and all advice we might receive—with a view to finding the best solution to the problem—and also (?on) how to apply the measures that we (?are taking) within the framework of the law, so that we can effectively eliminate this persistent scourge that is making our country ugly and blocking our development! [end recording]

Notice that the president of the military government is asking for the help of everyone—all sectors, all strata of the population— to put an end to insecurity, whereas several times it has been the Army that has disbanded, using force, the vigilance brigades that had been formed in order to combat the thugs that are spreading insecurity throughout Haiti.

For the time being, the government is asking for the help of all these strata of the society. We cannot at this point as yet tell you anything about what form of aid all sectors of the population could give the government.

We noticed that Major General Herard Abraham was present at this ceremony at the Law Courts. Also present were the members of the ministerial cabinet, several representatives of the diplomatic corps, magistrates from all jurisdictions, and so forth.

On the other hand, many observers are wondering if this ceremony is going to permit all those thirsting for justice to really obtain justice. Will there be a solution found for the land conflicts? Will all the prominent figures involved in all the criminal acts committed in Haiti be taken before a court? Are all the many investigations allegedly still being conducted going to result in something that will satisfy the people awaiting the results of these investigations—really, truly?

Ministry Announces Austerity, Other Measures

FL0310195889 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Excerpts] The Ministry of Information and Coordination announces that in view of the economic problems the nation is encountering these days, the president of the military government, Lieutenant General Prosper Avril, has decided to give up half, 50 percent, of his monthly salary to the public treasury for a period of 6 months. The ministers have agreed to give up 33 percent of their salaries for the same 6-month period. [passage omitted].

Also, (?another) press release says that the authorities have decided to cut by 20 percent the salaries of high-ranking government employees, consultants, and advisers who are making more than 7,500 gourdes per month; and to cut by 10 percent the salaries of government employees who make between 5,000 and 7,000 gourdes. This measure has been taken so it will not be necessary to fire people massively, an idea that is being seriously talked about—that is, there has been much talk to the effect that the authorities were going to take measures to fire many people in public administration. According to the press release, these measures will also be applied to employees of the autonomous enterprises and of all public enterprises in general.

These decisions were reached in order to increase, for the next 6 months, the amount of money available in the public treasury. The measures fall within the strategy aimed at softening the blows of the current economic crisis. Thus, it is an attempt to see if they can improve the situation.

The Directorate of Information of the Ministry of Information and Coordination also announces that during the absence of a series of ministers, the following people will be interim ministers for those ministries:

At the Justice Ministry, Social Affairs Minister Arnault Guerrier is going to be interim minister.

At the Ministry of Interior and National Defense, Public Health and Population Minister Serge Pinthro will be interim minister.

At the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship, Planning and External Cooperation Minister Theophile Roche will be interim minister.

Furthermore, the Directorate of Information and the Ministry of Information also announce that a 26 September 1989 decree creates, under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and in the place of the Government Purchasing Agency, an autonomous commercial agency with legal status called the General Supply Services [Services Generaux d'Approvisionnement]. This agency's headquarters will be in Port-au-Prince. [passage omitted]

The role of the General Supply Services, SGA, is to ensure that the Haitian market is regularly supplied with products of prime necessity, to avoid shortages of a number of products or the unavailability of these products, and thereby contribute to combating increases in the cost of living.

The SGA will also purchase, or have purchased for it, a number of articles of prime necessity. [passage omitted]

The SGA will also be generally responsible for the distribution of these products nationwide and for instituting harmony between supply and demand in Haiti. [passage omitted].

The SGA will also be responsible for setting up a proper commercial circuit for products in Haiti—that is, it will be in charge of setting up a good network, through which everyone throughout Haiti will be able to obtain what they need to buy.

The SGA will also be responsible for purchasing certain goods and equipment necessary for the proper functioning of the central administration and (?the administrations of) the different population groups [kolektivite yo] in Haiti.

The SGA will be run by a board of directors. This board will have a general directorate, a commercial directorate, a financial directorate, a directorate of inspection and verification, an administrative directorate, and a number of decentralized departments [servis].

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry will draw up a list of articles of prime necessity—things people use almost daily—which the SGA will be authorized to purchase and sell as needed inside Haiti. The SGA will be allowed to sell only to merchants with proper professional identification cards, which will be issued to them by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. The card number must obligatorily appear on the invoices and on the sales registers.

This 26 September decree creating the SGA also provides for publishing in the press the prices at which articles of prime necessity are to be sold.

Also, the SGA will have the right to supply the different services in the public administration with everything they need—equipment, office supplies, all kinds of other materials, and everything else they may need to function. This will be the exclusive responsibility of the SGA.

Requisitions will have to be submitted by the different public administration services to the SGA. This will have to be done according to the norms and procedures stipulated by the law on public accounting.

The SGA will also have to keep on hand a sufficiently large stock of equipment, materials, and office supplies so that it will not lack anything or have any shortages. [passage omitted]

The SGA's operations are supposed to be profitable. [passage omitted]

As of the appearance of this decree, all moveable property and real estate formerly belonging to the Government Purchasing Agency becomes the property of the SGA, which is going to take charge of everything that was in the hands of the Government Purchasing Agency; and the Supreme Office for Audits and Administrative Litigation is going to conduct an audit, to see if everything is in order. It will also inventory everything the Government Purchasing Agency had. This will be carried out in the suit of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

A series of considerations will be made in regard to the status of the personnel currently assigned to the administration of the Government Purchasing Agency—appropriate considerations, says this press release from the Ministry of Information and Coordination.

62 Employees Fired; Demonstration Planned

FL0310201889 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Text] Our correspondent in Gonaives, Bredy Delva, tells us that 62 employees have been fired from the ODPG, which is the Agency for the Development of the Gonaives Plain, because of the problem the high cost of living poses. [sentence as heard] Also, there is a demonstration scheduled for next Tuesday, 10 October in Gonaives. This demonstration is going to be against the high cost of living and insecurity. Here is our correspondent with details.

[Delva] On Monday 2 October, the ODPG officials decided to fire 62 employees. The reason for firing them is that ODPG does not have enough money to pay its employees.

Following this decision, we received a press release signed by several of these fired employees, in which they expressed much displeasure and asked the following questions: Was it they who stole 5,000 gallons of gas from the Germans, which was the reason (?the Germans) left the organization quicker? Was it they who looted the irrigation fund? Was it they who looted the ODPG's cement warehouse?

The fired men add that the officials know the answers to these questions, but have never said anything.

They are telling the public that the only reason they have been fired is because of the 48 percent [as heard] they demanded of the agricultural authorities in Port-au-Prince. They say they are paying for having made this demand. The press release is signed by some 20 of the 62 men fired.

Finally, (?according to) a press release issued by several poor neighborhoods in town on 2 October, there is a demonstration against the high cost of living, insecurity, and so forth scheduled for 9 October 1989. The demonstration is being called by the neighborhood committees of these neighborhoods.

This is Bredy Delva, National Haitian Radio, Gonaives.

Cardenas EXCELSIOR Interview, Part III

PA0310223189 Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 14 Sep 89 pp 5a, 23a

["Part III" of interview with Cuauhtemoc Cardenas, leader of the Party of the Democratic Revolution by Manu Dornbierer;—date and place not given. Part II published in 3 October Latin America DAILY REPORT, page 16]

[Text] [Dornbierer] Has the ejido [Indian community held farm land] system been attacked?

[Cardenas] By many. There has not been an opportunity to show its advantages.

[Dornbierer] However, Cuauhtemoc, we all know that some ejido projects have worked out well. We also know what is in the minds of most peasants—they are seeing what is happening in the USSR—and they want to be the true owners of their land. We also know that rural areas have been abandoned. Do you think the current ejido members should receive land titles?

[Cardenas] I would be against that Manu. The present situation of economic depression and misery of most current ejido members would make them sell their community held farm lands at cheap prices. This would be like rebuilding the past. I do not think that would be the right decision. I believe the goal should be to make rural areas truly productive through investments, technology, irrigation works, and infrastructure. Then, we can begin to review things. I think the ejido system will show its advantages as an economic organization system, not only as a land distribution system. It can be compared to many organizations, with many variations, of cooperative-type organizations that exist in the Netherlands, Italy, the United States, and France that are very strong and which unite efforts.

[Dornbierer] When one talks about collective property, people always think about the USSR, not about the countries you just mentioned. Another question to the son of Lazaro Cardenas—who expropriated the oil industry. Do you feel Pemex [Mexican Petroleum] might be opening its doors to investments because, some might say, it has not worked out as well as people think?

[Cardenas] Since 1938, the oil industry has been the most important industry for the country in terms of revenues and its contributions to the country's development. The important point to bear in mind is that oil reserves are expected to last about 40 years, to say the least. That is what experts say. I am not an expert, and I am not pretending to be one. There was a moment when our reserves reached about 70 billion barrels. However, our reserves are smaller now since there are regions that are difficult to exploit, such as the Chicontepec, which has about 17 billion barrels. Substract those 17 billion from 70 billion. At present, our reserves amount to about 40 billion barrels. We export half of what we extract—approximately 1.2 billion barrels a day—which represents the most significant source of income generated by a single source to pay the foreign debt. We are reducing our reserves quickly and in a grave manner. During the past administration, exploration was and still is virtually suspended. We are making a totally irrational and irresponsible use of oil reserves, which is totally antipatriotic.

[Dornbierer] What do you propose?

[Cardenas] We maintain that instead of exporting crude oil, we should be exporting refined oil and petrochemical products, which would generate more money. We are wasting gas and many byproducts due to the way oil fields are being handled. This is much more serious than the bad attempts to privatize this industry. By the way, it has been announced that the exploration and primary extraction of oil will be privatized. This will leave the knowledge and the management of a fundamental reserve in hands of foreign interest. It is well known that in the past, companies sent oil abroad; however for the purpose of paying taxes, they reported different quantities to the government. We cannot think that it will be different now.

[Dornbierer] It was not different during recent presidential terms either, Cuauhtemoc. Tell me: Are you or is the Party of the Democratic Revolution [PRD] so anti-gringo or so "anti-Western" as some say? Are you actually "unburied corpses," strictly devoted to a socialism in decay? Would you say your party is radical?

[Cardenas] The party is open to many ideas, ideologies, and political trends. It is a pluralist party in its context and in the origin of its members. It is truly identified with the ideas and principles of the Mexican Revolution, which does not mean it is nostalgic. Wishing to have equitable electoral laws is neither nostalgic nor demagogic. To attempt to eliminate misery from the country is neither nostalgic nor demagogic. To attempt to have a modern productive structure and to seek steady development by ourselves is not nostalgic. Concerning my alleged "anti-yankee" feelings, I want to remind you that my first tour after the PRD was established was to the United States.

[Dornbierer] This certainly drew criticism.

[Cardenas] They did not like it. In the United States however, I was in contact with university groups, with groups conducting political research, with groups linked to various political parties, with professors, with many people. I was able to exchange viewpoints and clear many misunderstandings. I am going to visit Puerto Rico. I plan to visit Chicago; I have been invited by universities and groups of Mexican origin. As you can see, I do not have any phobia of Americans or anyone else. During my father's time, we had a very positive relationship with the United States, with President Roosevelt.

[Dornbierer] Let us return to current times. What do you think of [Socialist Workers Party President Rafael] Aguilar Tamalantes?

[Cardenas] I think he has shown his true self to the public, exactly as he is. I do not want to delve into this matter. I simply think he is someone who is unconditionally in the service of the government. That is his decision and his responsibility. I think, however, he is of such nature that he deserves no comments.

[Dornbierer] What is your opinion of the Popular Socialist Party [PPS] and the Authentic Party of the Mexican Revolution [PARM]?

[Cardenas] In late 1987, those parties took an important step toward independence by supporting my nomination, which showed the political responsibility of their leaders. The Patriotic National Front will gather parties and independent associations to promote democracy.

[Dornbierer] It seems the Institutional Revolutionary Party [PRI] will have the necessary votes to impose its viewpoints at the debates to reform the electoral law?

[Cardenas] We have decided not to permit any regressive reforms that give greater advantage to the ruling party, in addition to those it already has, to manage the Congress and electoral organizations, especially the Federal Electoral Commission or the organization that could replace it. We will not allow an organization totally and automatically controlled by the government and the ruling party. We advocate an organization with equitable representation of political parties duly balanced with the citizens' representation, in which the government will not whimsically handle decisions. Another point that should be taken into account is the possibility of allowing political parties to participate in the supervision of public funds. If we want to democratize the country, it is absolutely necessary for the ruling party to stop unrestricted use of public funds, which is what it is currently doing.

[Dornbierer] Are political campaigns financed with those funds? Can you maintain this because you have experienced it?

[Cardenas] I have experienced it. I had much support from the government. However, my campaigns did not squander funds. I received no direct contributions from the government, but obviously there was some institutional support that eased my campaign as a presidential candidate.

[Dornbierer] Cuauhtemoc, I read that the PRD will propose a political trial for Miguel De la Madrid in November. Is this true?

[Cardenas] The PRD has prepared a suit, a political claim against former Interior Secretariat Manuel Diaz Bartlett for the handling of the 1988 elections. It has also prepared political trials against Former Programming Secretary Pedro Aspe, and against Former Finance Secretary Gustavo Petricioli for the management of economic matters during the preceding administration. The possibility of presenting these charges ends on 30 November. Therefore, we must file these charges at the beginning of November.

[Dornbierer] Then rumors about Miguel De la Madrid are untrue?

[Cardenas] There is a vacuum in the law that prevents the possibility of taking a president of the republic—who would hold the main responsibility—to trial. There is no possibility of a political trial, but he can be held responsible as an accessory after the fact in the Buendia [not further identified] case.

[Dornbierer] Who gives funds to the PRD?

[Cardenas] Most of the expenses are covered by party members to lease time on a local radio station, to travel from one place to another, to organize meetings, and so on—local efforts in each district or municipality. The law grants us the right to a very small federal subsidy. We face many limitations.

[Dornbierer] Cuauhtemoc, is it true that La Quina [Joaquin Hernandez Galicia] financed you? If so, was this lawful?

[Cardenas] Any financing would have been lawful if the origin of the moneys had been lawful, but this is one of the many lies that have been spread about us. We certainly did not receive any assistance from Hernandez Galicia because, for one thing, he was an avowed member of the official party. I did not see him even once during the entire campaign.

[Dornbierer] Nevertheless, he said he did not like Salinas...

[Cardenas] However, he always said that he was a member of the ruling party. You will perhaps remember that 3 to 4 days before the bazooka was shot at his house, Donaldo Colosio was still saying that the oil workers union, which was headed by those who are now in jail, was one of the strongest pillars of the official party. We did not receive any economic assistance from the leaders of the oil workers, and did not ask for it either. But we did receive political support from many oil workers who voted for the then existing National Democratic Front. The one who did receive economic support—and has publicly acknowledged it—was Aguilar Talamantes. According to what he said, he was receiving an amount regularly.

[Dornbierer] People say you do not like anything Salinas does...

[Cardenas] I think he has been governing with the red card [nota roja], with spectacular, and even police-like coups. At the bottom, these spectacular stunts involve no principle or intention to democratize the unions or to break down the corporatism or the dependence. There is no desire to fight corruption.

When we see who replaced Carlos Jonguitud through an imperious decision adopted at Los Pinos Presidential Palace, when we look at the background and moral standing of Sebastian Guzman Carrera, we find no qualitative change, no honest handling of resources, no intention to democratize the country's life. In the case of the Stock Exchange executives who are in jail, besides Mr Legorreta, there must be many more involved, including high-ranking officials of the federal government. Many questions are being raised about Manuel Buendia's case. So, we feel these are spectacular, but at the same time superficial measures. We can say the same about the preposterously triumphal announcement, full of flag-waving, that was made about the refinancing of the foreign debt when no settlement had yet been reached. Only now are some negotiations being held with the banks and, of course, they by no means have anything to do with the 55 percent reduction the government was after at the beginning. Everything is superficial, nothing goes deep enough. Everything is handled with publicity stunts.

[Dornbierer] Cuauhtemoc, I think that through this interview the public has been able to see the real Cardenas, the man and the politician, whom we leave after making a brief but substantial assessment of the current government.

Costa Rica

Arias Addresses UNGA; Mentions Panama, Cuba

PA0310233789 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1701 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Text] United Nations, 3 Oct (EFE)—Costa Rican President Oscar Arias said today that principles "that belong to causes with no borders in the new agenda of the world," that protect human rights, encourage democracy, and combat corruption have been violated in Panama.

Speaking before the 44th UN General Assembly, Arias pointed out that the sooner the Panamanians can solve their problems through free elections, the "less the tragedy of the people." Arias' speech coincided with reports from Panama about an alleged attempted coup.

The Costa Rican president also accused Cuba of continuing to send weapons to Central America and urged the Havana government to stop supporting armed groups in the region, as it did in Angola.

Toward that effect, Arias pointed out that the Cuban rulers "seem to have decided to remain in the Sierra Maestra and turn their backs on the world that is being born."

In a speech entitled "I am here to say thank you," the Costa Rican president bid farewell to the international community as his presidential term is drawing to an end, and he referred to the failure of violence as a method to solve ideological differences.

The confrontation "contributed toward spreading selfishness and allowing dogmatic and fanatical men to rule with respectability. We confused courage with he who was making violent charges. We made heroes out of those who criticized the powerful and promised to carry out justice with weapons," Arias stated.

Toward this effect, he praised the changes that have taken place around the world to halt war and the efforts of the five Central American presidents to put an end to the conflicts in the region, but he warned of the dangers of not starting immediately to build peace.

He also said that the next "summit" of Central American presidents will be held in December in Nicaragua, and that it will facilitate verifying the progress made toward holding free and democratic elections in that nation. He said that the Managua government will be asked to reduce substantially its Armed Forces.

Arias, who said in 1986 before the UN Assembly that the Sandinists had again killed Sandino by betraying his ideals, said today that "there is hope the Nicaraguans will reconcile themselves with democracy and freedom and resurrect Sandino."

As for the Salvadoran conflict, he pointed out "the brutality" in that country that has not led to any solution. He demanded a halt to the slaughter and destruction, to put an end to a decade "without compensation and without destiny."

Security Stepped Up on Border With Panama

PA0410023789 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2320 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Text] San Jose, 3 Oct (ACAN-EFE)—The Costa Rican Government (Interior) Ministry today dispatched more than 100 civil guardsmen to step up security at the control posts on the border with Panama, where a military coup to topple General Manuel Antonio Noriega, the head of the Panama Defense Forces, has failed.

Costa Rican official sources also revealed that an undisclosed number of immigration officers were sent to the border zone in expectation of a massive influx of Panamanians, similar to the situation that occurred in May this year after the Panamanian presidential elections were annulled.

Juan Felix Barrantes, head of the Civil Guard, and Antonio Espinoza, head of the Rural Guard, are in the area to evaluate the situation at the border. Surveillance has also been stepped up at aircraft landing strips in the area.

Spokesmen of the Costa Rican Public Security Ministry say that up until now the situation at the border has been "normal."

Over 500 Costa Rican Guardsmen are regularly assigned to cover the more than 300-km long border with Panama. Since 1948 Costa Rica has not had an army in accordance with the Constitution.

Government on Arrest of Panama's Arias

PA0410001889 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2254 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Text] San Jose, 3 Oct (ACAN-EFE)—Costa Rica feels that the arrest of Panamanian opposition leader Ricardo Arias Calderon by the Panamanian military "violates in all of its extremes" the commitments Panama signed before the OAS.

In a communique released today, the Costa Rican Foreign Ministry expressed its "deep concern" over this action to the Inter-American Human Rights Commission [CIDH].

Costa Rica has not had an ambassador accredited to Panama since late 1988.

"The denounced actions (arrest of Arias and 8 of his followers on 1 October) violate, in all extremes, the juridical obligations undertaken by Panama in its capacity as an OAS member and a party to the American Convention on Human Rights," the official note says.

Arias, vice president of the Christian Democratic International, and eight of his sympathizers were arrested by members of the Panama Defense Forces [FDP], the commander in chief of which is General Manuel Antonio Noriega, while on a tour to report on opposition activities in towns in Panama's interior.

The communique adds that the Costa Rican Government asked the Inter-American Court of Human Rights for its "prompt and qualified efforts [intervencion] with the Panamanian Government to obtain the release" of Arias Calderon and his companions.

Part of the group of opposition members was released after being questioned and held 24 hours by the military.

The Christian Democratic leader was accused of attacking the the security of the state and the national economy by promoting the campaign of "Not a Single Cent More" (to the regime), in which Panamanians are being asked to delay the payment of taxes and utility bills, and not to purchase state-run lottery tickets, among other things.

Guatemala

Cerezo Intercedes for Arias Calderon's Release

PA0410024189 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2310 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Text] Guatemala City, 3 Oct (ACAN-EFE)—Government spokesman Claudia Arenas today said that Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo had interceded personally with General Manuel Antonio Noriega, head of the Panama Defense Forces, to obtain the release of Panamanian opposition leader Ricardo Arias Calderon.

Arenas said that "his direct overtures to Gen Noriega obtained the release on Monday of the president of the Panamanian Christian Democrats and other party representatives who had been arrested over the weekend."

The government spokesman said that "as soon as President Cerezo learned of Arias' arrest, he sent a telegram to Gen Noriega expressing his concern over the incident and demanding that, according to the laws of the country, the prominent political leader be released immediately."

Arenas said that yesterday afternoon Cerezo was officially informed of the release of Ricardo Arias and the group of supporters who were accompanying him on a tour of the country's interior.

Arias and a group of supporters were arrested by the military as they were promoting a campaign entitled "Not a single cent more" (to the regime). The campaign urges the people to stop paying taxes and to delay the payment of public utility fees for as long as possible.

Ricardo Arias was a candidate for the first vice presidency in the May elections that were subsequently annulled.

1 Officer, 5 Soldiers Wounded in Rebel Ambush

PA0310223989 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1853 GMT 2 Oct 89

[Text] Guatemala City, 2 Oct (ACAN-EFE)—Armed Forces spokesman Colonel Luis Arturo Isaacs Rodriguez reported today that one officer and five soldiers of the Guatemala Armed Forces were wounded in a guerrilla ambush in the northern Peten Department, bordering Belize and Mexico.

The spokesman explained that a military squad was on a routine patrol in Modesto Mendez, Peten, when it was intercepted by the guerrillas and an exchange of fire took place.

Col Isaacs Rodriguez did not reveal the names of the wounded nor if the rebels had sustained casualties.

The Rebel Armed Forces (FAR), which operate in Peten, is one of the three guerrilla groups that form the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG).

Nicaragua

USSR's Shevardnadze Arrives for 24-Hour Visit

Welcomed by Ortega

PA0310202289 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1915 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Live relay from Augusto Cesar Sandino Airport]

[Text] Many people have come here to the Augusto Cesar Sandino Airport to welcome Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze who is here to visit us. Here is the president of the Republic:

[Ortega, in progress] ...to the comrade foreign minister of the USSR, Eduard Shevardnadze. I had the privilege of meeting him in his homeland, in Georgia, when I visited the Soviet Union some years ago. I am now very happy to welcome him to my homeland. So, welcome Comrade Shevardnadze. I am sure that this visit is going to strengthen the struggle for peace that the USSR is waging internationally and that Nicaragua is waging here in Central America.

[Announcer] You have just heard President Ortega welcoming Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze. Foreign Minister Shevardnadze is responding.

[Shevardnadze in Russian, with simultaneous translation into Spanish] I am very grateful to the dear comrade president for his very warm words of welcome and for his kind words about myself and about the entire Soviet people. I am also very grateful for his words about the Soviet Union's peace-loving policy. I am very grateful for this opportunity to visit the heroic and legendary land known as Nicaragua, and to meet the heroic Nicaraguan people. I am also very happy that I have an

opportunity to talk with you, the members of the Nicaraguan leadership, and would like to convey to you, comrade president, and to the entire Nicaraguan people, the warmest greetings from Mikhail Gorbachev and from the entire Soviet leadership.

We also accord paramount importance to the talks that we are going to hold here in Managua, taking into account that a very important phase, a new period of the Nicaraguan revolution, is just beginning; that is, the peaceful phase of the revolution. At least it now appears that there are possibilities for this peaceful phase. We greet and support this with all our hearts. The Soviet Union would like to make its contribution to this very historic cause.

Once again, I would like to thank the comrade president for such a warm welcome. Thank you.

[Announcer] You have just heard the Spanish interpreter translating the words of Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, who spoke in a very soft voice. Shevardnadze was flanked, on the one side, by the president of the Republic, and, on the other side, by Commander of the Revolution Henry Ruiz and Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto Brockman. Shevardnadze is about to greet the members of the Revolutionary Government and the officials of the Soviet Embassy who are here at the Augusto Cesar Sandino Airport to welcome him.

Mrs Shevardnadze is accompanied by Companera Rosario Murillo and by Commander Doris Tijerino.

Discusses Panama Situation

PA0410042489 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0207 GMT 4 Oct 89

[Text] Managua, 3 Oct (ACAN - EFE) —In Managua, Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze analyzed the Panamanian situation after a number of Panama Defense Forces [FDP] officers attempted to perpetrate a coup against General Manuel Antonio Noriega.

At the time Ortega received Shevardnadze, who arrived for a 24-hour visit, reports from Panama said troops loyal to Noriega, 51, subdued the rebels, who were described as midlevel officers.

At the end of a "working lunch," Ortega said he talked with Shevardnadze on the Central American "situation," Latin America, and "considerably on Panama."

The Sandinist leader urged the United States to respect Panama's "integrity and sovereignty" and pointed out that an intervention in this country would be a "great error and a tragedy." The Soviet foreign minister, however, has not yet made a statement on the Panamanian conflict.

Immediately thereafter, Shevardnadze, Ortega, Vice President Sergio Ramirez, and the other commanders who are members of the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] Directorate initiated another "working meeting," strictly private.

Before opening this meeting, where no reporters were allowed, Ramirez said they would discuss with Shevardnadze "bilateral affairs" and "subjects related to policy in Central America."

Ramirez said: "We will have an opportunity to discuss regional problems with Shevardnadze because the Soviet Union is interested in Central America's stabilization."

Tonight Ortega is hosting a dinner for Shevardnadze attended by diplomats, government officials, and Soviet and some local reporters.

Ortega and Shevardnadze will hold another working meeting on 4 October.

Upon arriving in Managua, the Soviet foreign minister said the Soviet Union, the principal supporter of the Nicaraguan economy, "would like to contribute to the historic cause" of the Sandinist Revolution.

Since the Sandinist Revolution triumphed on 19 July 1979, Nicaragua has received $2.9 billion from the Soviet Union.

Shevardnadze, who arrived accompanied by his wife Nanuly, said: "I wish to transmit to the President (Daniel Ortega) and the Nicaraguan people Mikhail Gorbachev's warmest greetings."

Nanuly and the Nicaraguan "first lady," Rosario Murillo, today visited a hospital and a children's day care center in Managua.

Before leaving Nicaragua at 1600 (2300 GMT) on 4 October, the Soviet minister will have lunch with Ortega and hold a press conference on his visit to Nicaragua.

Agenda of Visit

PA0310155889 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1257 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Text] Managua, 3 Oct (ACAN-EFE)—Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega will meet six times with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze during his first visit to a Central American country. Shevardnadze arrives in Managua today and will stay in Nicaragua for 24 hours.

Sandinist sources view the presence of the Soviet diplomatic chief in Nicaragua as the strengthening of relations between the two countries. Shevardnadze is also expected to discuss the Central American conflict with Nicaraguan officials. He is the most important Soviet official to visit Nicaragua in its 10 years of revolution.

According to a Sandinist diplomat, the visit is "basically political," but, according to international observers, it is

to "clarify" matters. These observers believe that Shevardnadze is visiting Managua to "explain" to the Nicaraguan Government the agreements that were recently reached in Wyoming with Shevardnadze's U.S. colleague James Baker.

The agreement between both world powers calls on countries outside Central America to stop military aid to irregular or rebel forces that operate in the area.

Other sources have reported that the USSR has not supplied weapons to Nicaragua since last year, but it continues to be the country that gives the most aid to the Sandinist Revolution—a total of $2.9 billion in the revolutionary decade.

Shevardnadze will be received by the Nicaraguan president at the "Cesar Augusto Sandino" Airport at 1910 GMT.

Both officials will go to the Revolution Plaza in the center of Managua and place a floral wreath at the mausoleum dedicated to Carlos Fonseca, one of the founders of the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) that is presently in power.

After a working lunch hosted by Ortega, the Soviet foreign minister will meet with the nine commanders of the FSLN Directorate. The foreign minister will be accompanied by the Nicaraguan president at this event.

After that, Ortega will give a dinner party in his honor. The diplomatic corps, other Sandinist officials and only Soviet and a few Sandinist reporters have been invited.

The following day, the Nicaraguan president and the Soviet foreign minister will hold a working meeting in the early morning and will later meet with Nicaraguan workers.

Before leaving Nicaragua at 1400 local time on Wednesday, the Soviet foreign minister will lunch again with Ortega and then hold a news conference.

Shevardnadze is acompanied by his wife, Nanuly, who will be received by the Nicaraguan "first lady" Rosaro Murillo, wife of Daniel Ortega.

He is also accompanied by Soviet Yuriy Pavlov, chief of the Latin American Affairs Department of the Soviet Foreign Ministry; Teymurz Stepnov, Foreign Ministry assistant; Sergey Tarasenko, chief of the general secretariat of the ministry; Aleksandr Nesterenko, secretary; and Sergey Tulinov, interpreter, plus four other officials of the Latin American Department.

Javier Bone, Nicaraguan vice minister of foreign cooperation, believes that during the Soviet foreign minister's visit there will not be any type of economic document signed between the two countries.

"In 1988 we signed a 3-year agreement with the USSR for $1.4 million, which assured us financing for our economy until 1990," the Sandinist official stated.

Nicaragua's foreign debt currently stands at $2 billion, according to Bone's estimates, "without including the part allocated for 1990, also included in the 3-year agreement," he noted.

The Soviet Union currently supplies petroleum amounting to 40 percent of the 760,000 metric tons consumed by Nicaragua every year, said the vice minister.

The Soviet Union gives Nicaragua 10-year-term loans at 3 percent interest to finance different projects and to purchase raw material for industry, fertilizers, consumer goods, agricultural equipment, medicines, and wheat.

Bone said that Nicaragua exports "minimum" quantities of coffee, meat, and cotton to the Soviet Union.

Ortega Comments on Incidents in Panama

PA0310230189 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1920 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Interview with President Daniel Ortega by unidentified reporters at the Augusto Cesar Sandino International Airport in Managua—live]

[Text] [Reporter] Commander, what have you heard about Panama?

[Ortega] I have been in contact with Acting Panamanian President Carlos Ozores and have learned that today's attempted coup, which began at 0700, was controlled from the beginning. The problem now is the deployment of U.S. troops, which threatens the integrity and sovereignty of the Panamanian people. Two C-130 spy planes have been constantly flying over Panamanian territory. I was also told of troops landing at the boundaries of reverted areas—areas that belong to Panama—and other areas that are still in U.S. hands. The landing of U.S. troops, in large numbers, is taking place in areas that are still in U.S. hands. The Panamanian Government is worried about a statement by a U.S. State Department spokesman, who said that the troops are there to protect the interests of U.S. citizens in Panama. The Panamanian Government is worried that this could be a prelude to intervention in Panama, that the United States may try to take advantage of today's incident, which has already been brought under control by the Panama Defense Forces [FDP] and the Panamanian Government, to intervene in Panama.

I believe that the United States must act prudently because it would truly be ironic and tragic that while the USSR Foreign Minister is in Central America, in Nicaragua, to talk to us precisely of peace in the Central American region, the United States should act in such manner as it has been—in a destabilizing manner—and increasing its actions in Central America, in this case in Panama. No one can doubt that if there is destabilization in Panama, it is the result of the systematic actions of the United States, which has been plotting against the FDP and the Panamanian Government and has tried to impose a government in Panama. This has created much tension.

We have also learned from Panamanian authorities that the FDP troops have been deployed throughout the country, especially in Panama City, and defense groups have been formed to confront eventual U.S. intervention. We hope this will not happen. We hope that the U.S. Government will act with prudence and that it will not intervene in Panama. We hope that the United States will respect the Torrijos-Carter Treaties and does not use situations like this to try and destroy the Torrijos-Carter Treaties.

[Reporter] What will Nicaragua do if the United States intervenes?

[Ortega] I hope they do not. We are against the U.S. interventionist policy and we hope that the United States will not make the serious mistake of intervening in Panama, because if there is one thing I am convinced of, it is that Panama is not Grenada.

[Reporter] Have you been in contact with General Noriega.

[Ortega] I have been in contact with the Panamanian Government.

[Reporter] What will Nicaragua do if there is open armed intervention?

[Ortega] Most important is to prevent such a thing from happening; I think that is the most important. We are struggling for this. I believe the international community should pressure the United States to refrain from using this situation to intervene in Panama. This would be against the peace process in Central America and against Latin America's position against intervention and meddling in domestic affairs. This would also violate the (?wishes of the world) for world peace.

[Reporter] From the information you have received, would you say that the crisis in Panama is over?

[Ortega] No, because the United States—in statements being made in the United States—is saying that it is ready to protect U.S. citizens. This excuse has been used dozens of times in Latin America whenever the United States wants to intervene with its troops. Therefore, we must be alert and warn of the danger of U.S. intervention in Panama, warn the international community, and call for prudence on the part of the U.S. Government. We must ask the United States to refrain from doing such a crazy thing, and let them know that this would be the best way to contribute toward peace in Central America.

[Reporter] What do you think USSR Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze's visit to Nicaragua has to do with the situation in Panama?

[Ortega] Just a coincidence. While we are here carrying out a peace action in Panama, in the Central American region, in Latin America, this kind of situation is occurring. It is the result of the disrespectful U.S. policy of destabilization against a small Latin American country.

Panama

Continuing Coverage of Insurrection, Situation

AFP Reports More Shooting

PA0310180189 Paris AFP in Spanish 1728 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Text] Panama City, 3 Oct (AFP)—Intense shooting and mortar fire continued to be heard at the Panama Defense Forces (FDP) headquarters today after a group of young officers announced that General Manuel Antonio Noriega had been ousted.

The shooting heard in the country's main military headquarters, where theoretically Noriega is located, occurred at the same time that the government Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD) issued a communique stating that forces loyal to the regime "totally control the country."

PRD President Carlos Duque stated through a local television station, Channel 2, that Noriega's troops controlled the uprising, but did not give any additional details.

Ozores Tells Ortega Coup Failed

PA0310181389 Paris AFP in Spanish 1738 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Text] Managua, 3 Oct (AFP)—Panamanian Provisional Vice President Carlos Ozores assured Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega today that the military rebellion against General Manuel Antonio Noriega "has failed," official sources reported in Managua. According to Nicaraguan Information Minister Manuel Espinoza, Ozores contacted Ortega by telephone to inform him that "the situation in Panama is under the control of the legally constituted authorities." "Ozores stated that this interventionist and meddling plan of the U.S. Government has failed," Espinoza stated.

Ozores is currently acting president of Panama, temporarily replacing Francisco Rodriguez, who is attending the UN General Assembly sessions in New York.

Loyal Troops Attack Headquarters

PA0310183689 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1758 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Text] Panama City, 3 Oct (ACAN-EFE)—The Panama Defense Forces [FDP] Battalion 2000, loyal to General Manuel Antonio Noriega, at 1230 (1730 gmt) used mortars and rifle fire to attack the FDP headquarters, where "midlevel officers" had rebelled this morning.

Heavy gunfire and strong explosions can be heard in the entire area of Panama City where the FDP headquarters is located. A heavy column of smoke can also be seen above the headquarters building.

The Battalion 2000 troops are pitted against those of the Urraca Battalion, whose commander, Major Moises Giroldi, was the first signatory of the rebel proclamation announcing the retirement of Noriega and other high-ranking officers. Meanwhile, Major Edgardo Lopez Grimando, FDP public relations chief, said the rebels' communique, issued shortly before 1100 (1600 GMT), "lacks any official and institutional content."

Fire Breaks Out

PA0310182789 Paris AFP in Spanish 1804 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Text] Panama City, 3 Oct (AFP)—A large fire broke out at noon today inside the Panama Defense Forces (FDP) Central Headquarters where apparently troops loyal to General Manuel Antonio Noriega are quelling an attempted coup.

Dense columns of smoke rose from inside the central headquarters at 1230 (1730 GMT), 5 hours after a revolt broke out led by young officers, who announced the overthrow of Noriega on the state-owned radio this morning.

Nevertheless, the state-owned radio station was retaken hours later by troops loyal to the regime. Major Edgardo Lopez, official FDP spokesman, asked the entire military corps of the country to disavow the proclamation by the rebels who announced Noriega's retirement, as well as the retirement of Colonel Marcos Justines and Alberto Purcell, chief and deputy chief of the General Staff, respectively, among other ranking officers.

Lopez Grimaldo stated that the rebellion in the FDP Central Headquarters, where Noriega has his office, "will be quelled in the coming hours."

Troops Take Headquarters

PA0310203489 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1942 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Text] Panama City, 3 Oct (ACAN-EFE)—Troops loyal to General Manuel Antonio Noriega have taken over the Panama Defense Forces [FDP] Central Headquarters, where midlevel command officers had revolted.

At approximately 1430 (1930 GMT) in the afternoon, the state television announced that "the revolt had ended with the surrender of the coupists." ACAN-EFE correspondents confirmed "on the spot" that fighting had ended in FDP Central Headquarters and that officers who declared their loyalty to Noriega had entered the headquarters.

FDP Controls Headquarters Area

PA0310205789 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2015 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Text] Panama City, 3 Oct (ACAN-EFE)—Troops loyal to Panamanian General Manuel Antonio Noriega have seized the main headquarters of the Panama Defense Forces [FDP], at which middle-echelon officers had rebelled.

Approximately at 1430 (1930 GMT), Televisora Nacional announced that "the uprising has ended with the surrender of the coup makers."

Simultaneously, ACAN-EFE correspondents confirmed "on site" that the fighting in the area of the main headquarters had ended and that officers who had previously said they were loyal to Noriega had entered it.

Several officers who participated in the uprising could be also seen leaving under arrest.

At the entrance to the headquarters correspondents could see, among others, Lieutenant Colonel Luis Cordova, of the FDP General Staff; and Major Edgardo Lopez Grimaldo, chief of public relations of the FDP.

The area is under the control of armored troops from military units who remain loyal to Noriega, including "Battalion 2000," which led the attack with mortars and armored vehicles against the rebels, beginning at noon (1700 GMT).

Local media controlled by troops loyal to Noriega insisted this afternoon that "the situation is duly under control" and that the general personally led operations against the rebels.

'All' Rebel Officers Surrender

PA0310194489 Panama City Telecinco Television in Spanish 1912 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Text] Attention. Here is a last-minute report. Commander Manuel Antonio Noriega has consolidated control of the Panama Defense Force [FDP] Headquarters. All of the rebel officers have laid down their weapons and surrendered.

There were confrontations with some officers of the Urraca Battalion in the FDP Central Headquarters and other isolated reactions.

Commander Noriega and the general staff retain the support and loyalty of all the military zones and garrisons, and all are unharmed.

Commander Noriega has asked the top officers, superior and subordinate officers, noncommissioned officers, and troops to remain calm and serene, in order to lessen the sad outcome of these confrontations.

Our reporters, in exclusive telephone interviews, have confirmed and verified that the incidents this morning were the action of a small and isolated group of mid-level command officers who did not represent the wishes of the members of the institution. Their motives do not coincide with the doctrine, philosophy, or strategy of the patriotic FDP.

Therefore, the professionalism, patriotism, and the genuine expression of its honorable officers, noncommissioned officers, and troops prevailed.

Civilians Take Garrison

PA0310184789 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1828 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Text] Panama— A few minutes ago, a group of men in civilian clothes occupied the military garrison in Colon, Panama's second most important city. According to our RCN source, it has been impossible to determine if they are friends or foes of Gen Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of the Panama Defense Forces.

Vice President Urges Calm

PA0310190889 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 1845 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Statement by Provisional Vice President Carlos Ozores on 3 October; place not given—recorded]

[Text] I want to address the Panamanian people through Televisora Nacional and state that there is much confusion as a result of the reports circulating in Panama City and the rest of the country. However, I want to use this opportunity to state that the situation is completely normal in the interior of the country and that the situation at the Defense Forces headquarters is under control. There is no reason for alarm. I ask the Panamanian people to continue with their daily tasks. I ask them not to be led by false rumors and to remain calm. Once the situation which began this morning is over, we will issue an official communique. I have only wanted to advance this information so as to calm the Panamanian people and to let them know that the situation is not as some sectors are trying to make them believe. Thank you very much.

Chiriqui Battalion Joins Rebellion

PA0310204889 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 2010 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Text] Here is an unofficial, I repeat an unofficial, report that we have just received from Panama: The rebel commanders are resisting the onslaught by the forces loyal to Noriega. At this time, the Cavalry Battalion, the Urraca Company, the Special Forces Command, and the Panama police are supporting the rebels.

We have also been informed that the Diablo Rojos Company of Chiriqui has also rebelled, but that there are currently no other troop movements in the rest of the country. We have also been informed that the Navy, Battalion 2,000, and the famous Dignity Battalions are the only forces that are supporting the dictator Manuel Antonio Noriega. This is an unofficial report.

U.S. Deployed in Amador, Balboa

PA0310215289 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 2025 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Statements by Luis Delgado, not further identified—live from studio]

[Text] I decided to come today and speak through Radio Nacional, because today's developments have been a deep shock to our nation's conscience, and it is necessary that we, the truly patriotic Panamanians who believe in our homeland and do not believe in surrendering our Panamanian institutions to the most backward sectors, must not let them get their way.

I went through all of Panama City today, looking at the details and all the situations as they had arisen, at all the things that were happening. It was very sad to see, for instance, that U.S. troops have closed passage to the installations in Amador, where there are installations that belong to our Panama Defense Forces. They have also seized the grounds of Balboa School, which is totally incorrect, totally immoral, and totally illegal.

It is regrettable that the power of the U.S. Army is being used to play the game of the traitors who are working internally for the United States. This is a great truth from what I have been able to see today, and it is truly very regrettable.

This is Luis Delgado, and I am worried about these things. I send all my compatriots a message of patriotism. I tell them to steadfastly take part in this struggle, not to take a single step backward, not even to get an extra starting push. We, the patriotic Panamanians, must make sure that in the year 2000 the Panamanian homeland will be thoroughly free, sovereign, and independent in our entire territory. There will not be a single soldier of a foreign force in our territory. All truly patriotic Panamanians must bear in mind that we have to sacrifice ourselves for all of these things and that, along the way, there will be many attitudes and many situations in which we will find a large number of traitors, a large number of people who will pick up the coins for which Christ was sold out.

FDP: Coup Attempt 'Thwarted'

PA0310213789 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 2051 GMT 3 Oct 89

["Bulletin issued by the Panama Defense Forces;" read by Major Edgardo Lopez Grimaldo on 3 October—recorded]

[Text] An attempted coup against the national government was thwarted at 1300 today. One of the goals of this movement was to take the Panama Defense Forces [FDP] headquarters by force, taking advantage of the absence of the president. The coupists acted jointly with Southern Command forces, who, with a large number of armored personnel carriers, early this morning blocked the UESAT [Special Antiterrorism Service Unit], the

Navy, the Victoriano Lorenzo 5th Company, the Balboa police, and other FDP facilities near FDP headquarters.

The coupists were held in check by superior firepower. There was great confusion at the headquarters, where several people were injured by gunfire. This action, by a small number of FDP members disloyal to the organization, was completely thwarted by members of the combat companies Pumas, Tigres, Battalion 2000, Special Forces, Macho Monte, and other contingents loyal to the Commander in Chief. The events spanned 0800 to 1300 [1300 GMT to 1800 GMT] today, when the rebels laid down their arms and surrendered to General Manuel Antonio Noriega himself. All of the military zone heads, company commanders, and other FDP leaders have remained loyal to our Commander in Chief, the FDP, and the fatherland.

All for the Fatherland. For Panama, our lives.

Curfew Ordered, Meetings Banned

PA0310211089 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2052 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Communique issued by the Government and Justice Ministry]

[Text] In view of the recent events in the country, the national government has ordered a curfew from 2000 to 0500 (0100 GMT to 1000 GMT) as of today, 3 October. No person will be allowed on the streets of the city [Panama City] without a reason to justify his presence in the streets, nor can there be any sort of meeting. This measure will be in effect as long as the national government so decides. The Panama Defense Forces have been instructed to comply with this measure. [Signed] Olmedo Miranda, government and justice minister.

Ozores Communique on Situation

PA0410022589 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0051 GMT 4 Oct 89

["Official government message on the current situation by Provisional Vice President Carlos Ozores;" issued 3 October—live or recorded]

[Text] In view of the latest events in Panama City, after talking with Provisional President Francisco Rodriguez and meeting with all the ministers, directors of autonomous institutions, and central government authorities, I have this to say:

1. The country is completely calm thanks to the timely intervention of forces that remained loyal to the government after the foiled attempt to overthrow the leadership of the Panama Defense Forces [PDF].

2. The national government reiterates the need for the Panamanian community to remain calm and ignore calls to disturb order and the peaceful lives of all concerned.

3. To ensure the proper climate, so that normalcy and tranquility can be fully reaffirmed, and avoid actions that could endanger the lives and properties of citizens and jeopardize their rights, the government and Justice Ministry has established a curfew effective from 2000 to 0500, as a measure of protection.

4. The national government reiterates its determination to protect, with all the resources and authority that the Constitution and law provide and stipulate, the normal activities of the people. The government will punish any actions that could endanger the exercise of the people's rights, or that could favor violent actions that could disturb the Panamanian people's peace. We are making an appeal to the Panamanian community to cooperate in preserving tranquility so that institutional life can be restored as soon as practicable.

Commentator Supports Noriega

PA0310212889 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1815 GMT 3 Oct 89

["Special report" by Jose Santos Rodriguez]

[Text] Not one step backward, Commander. We want to call on the Panamanian people to remain calm, to go to the supermarket, to go home and not to get involved in situations that might surprise them on the street. We must accept the situation, which we had been reporting for a long time. The penetrations by the United States and the opposition in our country have definitely had successes.

We must also accept, on the other hand, that a large group of persons were surprised—Panama Defense Force [FDP] officers, a minority, were surprised—by that situation, and we call on the people to be calm, to reflect. We have always maintained the thesis: While we were going to provide the dead, the gringos were going to provide the bullets.

I think we must deplore today's incidents in which Panamanians are being pitted against Panamanians, with the only purpose of filling the glass of anxiety, stubbornness, and oppression in which we have been placed by the U.S. Government. To the troops of my fatherland who hear me today, I want to tell you that all of the garrisons in the countryside continue to be loyal to Commander General Manuel Antonio Noriega. Those soldiers of the fatherland who were surprised at a given moment for any reason should remain calm. We do not want bloodshed.

We are inviting you to refrain from any rash actions and act in fellowship. We are calling on the Panamanian people to stay home and listen to the latest events. We are telling the rebellious FDP officers that we understand they were taken by surprise and trapped in this movement. We are hereby asking them to lay down their arms and surrender so we can again enjoy peace and tranquility. We Panamanians had not been living in a situation that had been occurring in Central America. I repeat: We

are appealing to the people to stay sober. Do not play along with the game of death and destruction among Panamanians. There are no oligarchs or opportunists involved in what is happening. The forces loyal to Commander Noriega are in the process of recovering power and getting the situation back under control. We are appealing to all those who one way or another were involved in this rebellion to lay down their arms, surrender, and talk to their superior officers.

We oppose violence. We do not think we should become involved in a warlike conflict. We Panamanians cannot permit Panama to suffer from the kind of death, war, and destruction that is ravaging the Central American countries. Many of our friends listening will remember that for several months I was saying this situation could not go on like this and that we should not pay attention to the oligarchs that in Panama control staples such as beans, rice, corn, cattle, and imported products. I was even criticized a number of times for saying this. I said on a number of programs that businessmen were taking advantage of the situation to become even richer. We call on all of FDP members to invoke peace, tranquillity, and the fellowship that has always prevailed in the institution. I think it is important for all Panamanians to speak in a climate of goodwill, understanding, and willingness to overcome this crisis as peacefully as possible.

On several programs, we have been reporting the work of British citizen Ruth Sibart. A report published in the British magazine THE ECONOMIST states that 3 million people have been killed in 25 conflicts. These conflicts in Latin America occur because of U.S. interference against Latin Americans. Apparently, they are interested in taking Latin America so the United States can control the entire region.

Government To Control Reporting

PA0310215189 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 2135 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Communique issued by the Government and Justice Ministry in Panama City on 3 October]

[Text] The Government and Justice Ministry informs the media that all information released on this morning's incidents will come from the national government. To facilitate this, a national network will be used and will be the only medium through which information will be released. Those who do not abide by this communique will be punished according to current laws.

[Signed] Olmedo Miranda, Government and Justice Minister

Situation Reported Under Control

PA0310215989 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1959 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Communique issued by Ministry of Government and Justice on 3 October, read by station announcer]

[Text] The Government and Justice Ministry is very concerned, as this morning it was observed that certain media broadcast information that is not true and that only seeks to destabilize the tranquility of Panamanian society.

In an irresponsible communique, the names of several Panama Defense Forces [FDP] officers were read, and it was said they were involved in events, which did not take place and which they themselves did not support. The national government guarantees public order and tranquility will be maintained throughout the nation, and that efforts will be redoubled to impose its authority over anything endangering the institution of the nation.

Despite these actions against the stability of the country and the security of the people, the national government and the FDP, led by President Francisco Rodriguez, Vice President Carlos Ozores Typaldos, and General Manuel Antonio Noriega, respectively, have the best of intentions to continue their nationalist struggle, with full respect for our free and sovereign nation.

The media—both national as well as the foreign news agencies accredited in our country—are urged to comply with the regulations that pertain to that field. We will be unbending in complying with the regulations, and we will apply the corresponding sanctions.

We stress the situation throughout the nation is fully under control, guaranteeing the peace and tranquility that the state must provide the people. (signed) Olmedo Miranda, government and justice minister.

Dignity Battalions on Red Alert

PA0310235889 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 2314 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Communique issued by the Dignity Battalions, in Panama City on 3 October—read by announcer]

[Text] 1. The treacherous actions of antipatriots who sided with the United States and who, under the leadership of John Maisto and the treacherous oligarchy, are bent on destabilizing the state's task of searching for national peace and harmony. They wish to prompt situations that will allow an invasion, but they will be repudiated by the Panamanian people represented in the Dignity Battalions.

2. The Dignity Brigade is on red alert with all its battalions; they are ready to repel any local or foreign action.

3. The 21,000 brigade members are faithful to the Panamanian state represented by Provisional President Francisco Rodriguez and his government, to Commander Manuel Antonio Noriega, and to the patriotic and Torrijist Panama Defense Forces with whom we maintain an anti-imperialist, nationalist, patriotic, antifascist, and Torrijist alliance.

4. We urge all the patriotic forces to unite in light of the enemy's attempts to weaken the anti-imperialist unity. Every patriotic Torrijist must go to his fighting trench.

5. The enemy has been identified. They are the U.S. empire and the treacherous oligarchy that is trying to gather the weak and greedy, without a liberationist ideal.

6. No brigade member must leave his trench or assigned post without a direct order from his COPACOBRID [Dignity Brigade Patriotic Coordination Command] superiors.

7. The men who attempted the coup d'etat have been surrounded and in a matter of hours our country will return to its much desired peace.

[Signed] Commander Benjamin Colamarco, Commander Enrique Thompson, Commander Arturo Marquinez, Chief of General Staff Guillermo Ledesma Bradley.

AFP Wraps Up Situation

PA0410012089 Paris AFP in Spanish 2335 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Text] Panama City, 3 Oct (AFP)—Gen Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of the Panama Defense Forces [FDP], has accused the United States of being "mainly responsible" for the foiled coup attempt led by a group of young officers today.

"This morning's incident corresponds to the permanent penetration and aggression of U.S. forces against our country's tranquility," Noriega said during his first public appearance today, which ended widespread speculation about his whereabouts.

The military man, whose departure from the FDP has been unsuccessfully sought by the United States for the past 2 years, spoke over a radio and television network in military uniform and without any weapons, but heavily guarded by dozens of officers loyal to him and by Attorney General Carlos Villalaz.

"We had learned several weeks ago that (the United States) was going to lower the level of penetration, confusing the middle-rank officers," Noriega asserted.

He reported that U.S. troops this morning sealed off areas that provide access to Fort Amador west of Panama City, where five elite FDP companies operate, and the Pan-American Highway, which links the capital with the country's main provinces.

However, loyal troops overpowered the rebels with "total support from combat forces and we now maintain order in the country," Noriega asserted.

The commander said that those involved in the coup attempt are under investigation and did not rule out the possibility that "all of these plans may have been linked to certain calls for disobedience of the state's laws."

The Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance (ADOC), which has claimed victory in the annulled elections of last May, has been promoting since last month a campaign of "civil disobedience," urging the Panamanian people to stop paying taxes to the government.

This is the third coup attempt Noriega has thwarted. On 26 February 1987, then President Eric Arturo Delvalle tried to oust Noriega, while on 16 March of the same year Police Chief Colonel Leonidas Macias failed with another uprising.

This afternoon, about 50 members of the Panama Police and approximately 60 members of the so-called Dignity Battalions, which are made up of civilians trained by the government in case there is a "military intervention" on the part of the United States, were being held at the Leon Tejada Sports Complex, in the Chorrillo neighborhood, about 1,000 meters from the main FDP headquarters.

The soldiers guarding them, who were in combat gear, said that they would be held there "until their situation in relation to the coup attempt is clarified."

Troops of the FDP's Battalion 2000 are keeping the main headquarters cordoned off, and passage is barred to the public. Traffic in the rest of the city is normal.

Six Killed in Uprising

PA0410122889 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 4 Oct 89 pp 1, 10

[Text] According to information obtained by CRITICA, Panamanian Lieutenant Colonel Nivaldo Madrinan, general director of the National Department of Investigations, was wounded in the incidents that occurred 3 October.

It was also learned that as a result of the clashes between the rebellious troops and forces loyal to Commander Manuel Antonio Noriega, six persons were killed and various others were wounded from both sides.

It is presumed that the leader of the rebellious troops was killed in the counterattack.

Noriega's Actions Reported During Crisis

Rumors About Location, Departure

PA0310170089 Paris AFP in Spanish 1617 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Text] Panama City, 3 Oct (AFP)—Conflicting reports regarding the whereabouts of Panamanian General Manuel Antonio Noriega circulated in Panama City this morning after approximately 200 soldiers rebelled inside the Panama Defense Forces [FDP] Headquarters at exactly the moment Gen Noriega was entering the said military garrison.

According to eyewitnesses, the shooting began at 0755 local time (1255 GMT) at the precise moment when Noriega was entering the FDP Headquarters, in which he has his offices.

In spite of those reports, no one was able to report on Noriega's fate after that moment. Meanwhile, some said that Gen Noriega entrenched himself inside the FDP headquarters. Other reports say that Noriega managed to escape in his own car.

According to the latter report, Noriega's personal escort reportedly had to open fire against the rebellious troops to cover their commander's withdrawal.

Heading 'Control Operations'

PA0310191989 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 1846 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Text] A few moments ago, Lieutenant Colonel Arnulfo Castrejon and Captain Moises Cortizo told this television station that they are maintaining radio communication with General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander of the Defense Forces, who is personally heading all the control operations. The two military officers added that loyal troops throughout the country have high morale, and that the rebel troops have begun to surrender. Gen Noriega told them that he does not want unnecessary bloodshed.

'Consolidates' Situation

PA0310191289 Panama City Telecinco Television in Spanish 1858 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Text] Here is a last-minute report. Commander Manuel Antonio Noriega has consolidated the situation. He has just assumed control of the Panama Defense Force [FDP] Central Headquarters—all the officers and subordinates have laid down their weapons and have surrendered.

There were confrontations with some officers of the Urraca Battalion in the FDP Central Headquarters and other isolated reactions. All the military zones and garrisons remain loyal to the commander in chief, who is unharmed.

This has been a last-minute report.

Plans News Conference

PA0310202689 Paris AFP in Spanish 1943 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Text] Panama City, 3 Oct (AFP) — General Manuel Antonio Noriega "remains firmly in power and in the coming hours he will hold a news conference," an officer of the Panama Defense Forces (FDP) stated this afternoon.

The military officer, who chose not to be identified, said that Noriega is inside the FDP Central Headquarters, where artillery and rifle fire could still be heard this afternoon.

Despite the prolonged shooting inside the garrison, the source said that the rebellion "has been controlled and General Noriega remains firmly in power."

Makes Brief Appearance, Statement

PA0310225389 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2225 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Text] At about 1530 today, our news director Julio Ortega, together with cameraman Nivaldo Tejeira, interviewed General Manuel Antonio, about whom there was all sorts of speculation. Surrounded by loyal troops, Commander Noriega made these brief statements:

[Begin recording] [Ortega] General Noriega, there is much expectation in the world and in Panama about the recent events that have taken place here, and about your person and your personal safety. We see that fortunately you are safe and sound, and this makes the Panamanian people feel more tranquil. Now, I would like for you to give some statements about what happened this morning at the Panama Defense Forces [FDP] headquarters.

[Noriega] This morning's incident is part of the permanent aggression and penetration by the U.S. Armed Forces against the tranquility of our country. Several weeks ago, we had received this information, that they were now going to lower the level of penetration, trying to confuse the mid-level commands. Evidence of this is the fact that the U.S. forces blocked the areas leading to the FDP headquarters. They also blocked the Inter-American highway and the [word indistinct] have just reopened the highway.

All of these plans, along with certain watchwords of disobeying the state laws, were neutralized by the administrative and loyal forces that controlled the rebels. All of the combat forces and the zones gave full support. Right now, all military zones, all provinces are in complete order. We will maintain that order, which is precisely what they want to eliminate from our daily life.

[Ortega] Could you tell us who organized the movement and what information we can obtain at this moment?

[Noriega] Since this just happened, we are in the process of investigating the incident. Therefore, we do not want to hinder such a process. [end recording]

FDP's Behavior During Crisis Monitored

Reacts To Rebel Statements

PA0310182189 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1725 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Panama Defense Forces—FDP—communique read by Major Edgardo Lopez Grimaldo, director of information and public relations—live]

[Text] All citizens in general and the entire world are advised that the communique announced recently on the radio and television stations, seized forcefully by a group

of FDP members disloyal to the commander in chief and to the institution, is devoid of any official or institutional content and is nothing but a desperate move to disinform, to sow confusion, and particularly to turn the fatherland over to domestic and foreign enemies, to dismantle the FDP, and to return to the times of U.S. colonialism.

That ignominous piece of paper is invalid. What is valid is the faithful attitude to the fatherland and to the commander in chief of the immense majority of FDP members, who remain firm and loyal to General Antonio Noriega, unquestionable leader of the Panamanian cause.

The citizens are asked to remain calm and to reflect, so as not to turn our country into another El Salvador or another Vietnam.

Be calm, Panamanian people. Everything has been lies and disinformation. The FDP stands alongside Gen Noriega. Viva Gen Noriega, viva the FDP, viva Panama, everything for the fatherland!

Issues Communique on Crisis

PA0310163789 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 3 Oct 89

["Official Communique" of the Panama Defense Forces dated 3 October and addressed "to the entire national territory"]

[Text] At 0900 today, Tuesday, 3 October 1989, at the Central Command of the Panama Defense Forces [FDP], the young officers and the mid-level commands, aware of the role that our Armed Forces play in the democratization and cleaning up of public administration, and following the military guidelines and the goals of the 1968 revolution of which we were the initiators, and where the priniciples of people-government liaison are emphasized, we hereby consider that:

1. The FDP are aware of the current problems that entail a confrontation among Panamanian brothers as a result of the internal and external political conflicts that have been taking place during the last 2 years. As a result, there has been an internal division of the Panamanian family.

2. The mid-level commands of the FDP recognize at all times the agreement reached at the OAS where it was agreed to establish a transitional government and elections in a short period of time, and therefore, it is clear that the legal status of the current provisional government is recognized.

3. The FDP continue to represent a historic role that began on 11 October 1968 with Torrijism.

4. The FDP maintain at all times their Torrijist, nationalist, military position before the Panamanian people.

The FDP midlevel commands have considered that the fatherland and the institution to which we owe ourselves are above all personal interests or ideologies which affect our country..

6. It is the opportune moment to advise all the Panamanian people that the 16 March 1988 movement was carried out by former officers who at no time considered the fatherland's welfare or the institution, but did so thinking of their own economic interests, affected at this time by U.S. pressures, and in cahoots with bad Panamanians, disavowing the permanent Torrijist, nationalist position of our institution.

7. We maintain our position of noninterference of foreign countries in our domestic affairs. We maintain the right of self-determination of our peoples in search of its total sovereignty.

8. We have concluded that it is necessary to make a restructuring of the FDP for the welfare of our institution.

9. This movement is strictly military, without politicking and without the intervention of the U.S. Army.

We conclude:

1. As of this date, the mid-level commands consider that the superior commands do not represent any guarantee and do not follow the guidelines presented by our leader and spiritual guide, Omar Torrijos Herrera.

2. The situation experienced by the country, the economic pressure to which our people are subjected, are a result of the errors that we must correct and amend, such as the anarchy that prevails in the Panamanian state, preventing the normal development of the activities of the powers contemplated in the constitution.

2. [number as heard] There is a need to recover the military prestige of the institution acquired on its own right with the 1968 revolution and the respect of the Panamanian people.

3. Based on all of the above, we have made the following decision: On this date, for the good of the fatherland and the institution, those officers who according to Law 20 should go into the reserves—after having fulfilled 25 years of service prior to 1985—should retire.

Based on this, from the time this document is issued, we will cease to recognize the authority and hierarchy of all officers who according to Law 20 should go into compulsory retirement. To clarify this further, we announce the names of those in the hierarchy who according to this law must retire. Those who are retiring are: General Manuel Antonio Noriega, Colonel Marcos Justines Fernandez, Col Alberto Purcell, Col Angel Mina Justiniani, Col Teodoro Alexander, and Col Julio Ow Young.

The officers, non-commissioned officers, and troops who are in the main headquarters send a message to the rest of our comrades in arms for them to reflect on: This action is for the good of our fatherland and our beloved

institution. Those heads of units that do not understand this communique and who come close to the installations of the main headquarters will be responsible, to the fatherland and to history, for the consequences that this action might bring about.

With this movement we are seeking a reconciliation among Panamanians and the holding—as soon as possible—of elections organized and supervised by the Organization of American States, for our own satisfaction and the satisfaction of all Panamanians.

May the Lord and the fatherland protect us. All for the Fatherland!

Signed: Major Moises Giroldi Vera, chief of the Urraca Battalion; Captain Javier Licona, chief of the Cavalry Squadron; Capt Jesus George Balma, chief of the Special Forces Unit; Capt Edgardo Sandoval, chief of the 1st Public Order Company.

Dear listeners from all over the country: This has been the official PDF communique that was issued today, Tuesday, 3 October 1989. All for the fatherland!

Vows Support for Noriega

PA0310201089 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 1925 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Report on communique issued by the Directorate of Information and Public Relations of the Panama Defense Forces on 3 October in Panama City]

[Text] The following is a communique issued by the officers, NCO's, and enlisted men of the Panama Defense Forces [FDP]. It reads as follows: Fellow Panamanians: A very small group of officers disloyal to the fatherland and their institution embarked this morning on a reckless and turncoat venture, imperiling national sovereignty and the peace and tranquility of the citizens. Out of respect for our people, we report that that small group is isolated and represents no one. For that reason, there is no hope left to it.

The communique adds that the nationalist officers of all ranks and from all the garrisons of the country have confirmed their full loyalty to the fatherland, Torrijism, and our commander in chief, General Manuel Antonio Noriega. The few who were swayed by cowardice, foreign money, and treason are a tiny minority who tried to take advantage of foreign meddling. In the next hours, that small group will go before justice covered with shame. Officers, NCO's, and enlisted men from all the Panamanian fatherland today confirm our loyalty to the people and the independence and sovereignty of the Republic, the provisional government, General Noriega, and Torrijism.

To conclude we call on the citizens to be calm and confident because the problem that arose is close to being solved. Not one single step backward. Long live Panama.

FDP Directorate of Information and Public Relations.

Other Statements Supporting Noriega Issued

National Navy Chief

PA0310181789 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 1732 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Statement by Lieutenant Colonel Arnulfo Castrejon, chief of the National Navy—live or recorded]

[Text] Good morning gentlmen, this is Lieutenant Colonel Arnulfo Castrejon, chief of the National Navy. Right now, I feel humiliated by the treacherous action of a small group of officers who have been penetrated by the United States in order not to comply with the Torrijos-Carter treaties. We are suffering a humiliation. But here are the loyal officers who [words indistinct] so that our fatherland will no; be humiliated, [words indistinct] or captured by the United States.

Those traitors who sell out for just a few dollars will not pass. We have the [word indistinct] forces, the National Navy, and the Battalion 2000 that are right now surrounding the Panama Defense Forces headquarters, along with the Tinajitas units, and the Tocumen Brigade. We have here the revolutionary forces led by Commander Colamarco [commander of the Dignity Brigades] where there are over 400 civilians who are patriotic and nationalistic, who are armed and ready to defend the fatherland, defend the institution, and defend my General Noriega.

No to the traitors! This is Lt Col Arnulfo Castrejon speaking. We are willing to give our lives!

Chief of 5th Military Zone

PA0310195389 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 1847 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Text] Regarding the events in the country, Lieutenant Colonel Luis del Cid, chief of the 5th Military Zone in Chiriqui Province, spoke to Televisora Nacional over the telephone to express his support and loyalty to General Manuel Antonio Noriega.

[Begin del Cid recording] [Words indistinct] 5th Military Zone [words indistinct] wanting to keep the community duly informed. [Words indistinct] recognize General Manuel Antonio Noriega as commander of the Panama Defense Forces. We will not support either morally or physically any movement against the loyalty [words indistinct] commander. We take this opportunity to state that there is peace and harmony within the 5th Military Zone, and the Defense Forces remain in a state of alert [words indistinct] support the only commander we recognize, Gen Manuel Antonio Noriega. Standing or dead, never on our knees! [end recording]

Panamenist Revolutionary Party

PA0310222389 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 1938 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Text] Panamenist Revolutionary Party [PPR] President Luis Gaspar Suarez has joined the thousands of patriots who have expressed unconditional support for Panama Defense Forces [FDP] Commander in Chief General Manuel Antonio Noriega.

[Begin Suarez recording] Thanks, friends from Televisora Nacional. In the name of the PPR, we are reporting this shameless U.S. intervention through a number of subordinate officers who, blinded by U.S. gold, tried to subvert order this morning to take over the FDP and hand it over to the U.S. Army. The PPR, which I lead, has instructed all black beret commandos in every neighborhood and street, in every province, corregimiento, and district in the country, to put themselves under the command of the loyal FDP members to defend President Francisco Rodriguez and the staff loyal to Commander Noriega.

In addition, we anticipate and we will comment on and support the speech and report by President Rodriguez at the United Nations. This speech will now be amended by a new factor, treason, which was introduced this morning. We are asking the Panamanian people to remain calm. You will remember that we reported a month ago on the Van Cleef commandos being trained in U.S. barracks. I also said a Nicaraguan contra introduced to us was one of the Van Cleef commandos. So we did not fall for this CIA provocation. We ask the Panamanian people to remain calm and support the officers, who at this time are subduing the only redoubt that the rebels were able to hold for a time—FDP headquarters. The rest of the country and all the other garrisons are calm, have remained loyal to the FDP, and support the FDP staff and President Rodriguez.

Consequently, we ask the people to remain calm. We ask all black berets in the country to put themselves under the command of the loyal garrisons in every province.

Thank you. Panama will win. Panama will go on to final victory, onward and upward. Panama will succeed in achieving its total liberation, despite the U.S. interference. Forward Panama, onward and upward.

Los Santos 7th Military Zone

PA0310211689 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 2039 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Text] We have on the line Major Luis Martinez, chief of the 7th Military Zone, who wants to relay a message of support to the commander of dignity [General Manuel Antonio Noriega].

[Martinez] The 7th Military Zone of Bravos de Canajagua, commanded by Maj Luis Martinez, officers, noncommissioned officers, and troops report to the country that they remain loyal to Commander Noriega, the commander of dignity; that they condemn officers Giroldi, Sandoval, and Licona as traitors to our homeland and our institution; and that, spurred by offers of economic gain and power, they engaged in this vile act of treason against their homeland and their institution.

To all patriotic civilian forces in Los Santos Province and to the members of the Dignity Battalion who have called or presented themselves to offer us their unconditional support, we say: The traitors shall not pass; not a single step back, Commander Noriega.

We also urge the civilian population in Los Santos to remain calm and alert and to only accept reports coming from the office of public relations of the 7th Military Zone on Radio Mensabe and the Ondas del Canajagua station.

Thank you.

Maj Luis Martinez, commander of the 7th Military Zone, Bravos del Canajagua.

Committees for Defense

PA0410025589 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2322 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Text] The institutional and community Committees for the Defense of the Fatherland and Dignity [CODEPADI] announce to the country:

1. The nationalist, unconventional, patriotic, and Torrijist forces hereby alert the people to the seriousness of the local situation and request that the people continue their struggle to resist attempts by traitors to hand over the fatherland to the U.S. empire to satisfy their commercial ambitions.

2. In cooperation with the Panama Defense Forces [FDP] and the Dignity Battalions, the CODEPADI's hereby reiterate their loyalty to the state, represented by Provisional President Francisco Rodriguez; the patriotic and Torrijist FDP, represented by General Manuel Antonio Noriega; and the patriotic members of the Dignity Battalions.

4. [Number as heard] No patriotic and nationalist Panamanians should doubt the nationalism, patriotism, and anti-imperialism demonstrated by Gen Noriega and the patriots that back him in his struggle against the domestic traitors and the U.S. imperialists.

5. The CODEPADI's throughout the country have sided with patriotism, nationalism, anti-Fascism, anti-imperialism, and Torrijism and will raise throughout the fatherland the national flag against the traitorous coupists.

[Signed] Institutional and community CODEPADI's

12th Military Zone

PA0410050589 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 0428 GMT 4 Oct 89

[Text] Captain Ruben Dario Arguelles, chief of the 12th Military Zone in San Blas; the mid-level officers; and troops have reaffirmed their full allegiance to General Manuel Antonio Noriega and his staff.

Locations, Actions of Opposition Leaders Observed

'In Safe Places'

PA0310195689 Paris AFP in Spanish 1929 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Text] Panama City, 3 Oct (AFP)—Panamanian opposition leaders Guillermo Endara and Ricardo Arias Calderon took refuge today "in safe places" after the military revolt broke out against General Manuel Antonio Noriega, opposition sources have reported. Intense shooting has continued in the vicinity of the Panama Defense Forces [FDP] Central Headquarters, and the whereabouts of General Noriega is unknown.

Minutes after the revolt broke out and shooting took place in the FDP Central Headquarters, Endara hurriedly left a downtown building where he was on a hunger strike since 20 September.

A spokesman for the Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance (ADOC), who asked not to be identified, told newsmen at noon that "Arias Calderon and Endara took refuge in safe places."

The source refused to state whether the ADOC leaders took refuge in any of the U.S. bases in the Canal Zone.

Endara Boarding Plane

PA0310204989 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 2010 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Commentary by unidentified announcer during "special patriotic program"]

[Text] One of the things I want to mention is that Cuchungo Endara was aware of the rebellion, because at 0300 he lifted his famous hunger strike, which was never a hunger strike. No one can survive 12 days—I said so—without eating.

It is reported that Cuchungo Endara is now at Howard Air Force Base, boarding a plane to the United States. Therefore, he is abandoning those who fell into the trap.

Endara, Ford To Leave for U.S.

PA0310221689 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 2205 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Text] We have received phone calls that confirm Guillermo Endara Galimany and Guillermo Ford are at Howard Air Force Base, waiting for a plane to leave for the United States.

ADOC Denies Knowledge of Military Coup Attempt

PA0410013589 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0023 GMT 4 Oct 89

[Text] Panama City, 3 Oct (ACAN-EFE)—Anel Beliz, spokesman of the Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance (ADOC), has said that the ADOC leaders "do not have any background information" concerning today's abortive military coup against General Manuel Antonio Noriega.

Beliz told ACAN-EFE: "We have no other information than that which we have seen on the official television channel."

The ADOC spokesman said that top opposition leader Guillermo Endara, who has been on a hunger strike since 20 September, "was transferred to a safe location in view of today's military incidents."

Until this morning Endara—whom the opposition considers to have been "elected president" in the annulled 7 May elections—was staying at ADOC headquarters in midtown Panama City, but he left the premises today, along with his aides and assistants.

According to Beliz, early this morning three bombs exploded in front of the building where Endara was staying and this incident, along with the military uprising, "compelled us to recommend that he (the opposition leader) be transferred to a safe location, where he may continue his hunger strike under the supervision of his doctors."

Endara began his hunger strike to ask his followers to stage an economic boycott of the government by delaying the payment of taxes and public services for as long as possible, not participating in the state-run lotteries, and other measures.

In his first statement tonight after overcoming the coup attempt, General Manuel Antonio Noriega, head of the Panama Defense Forces, linked the "civil disobedience campaign" to the abortive military uprising.

PDC's Ossa Arrested, Held 'Incommunicado'

PA0410145189 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1404 GMT 4 Oct 89

[Text] Panama City, 4 Oct (ACAN-EFE)—Raul Ossa, one of the three vice presidents of the Panamanian Christian Democratic Party (PDC), the largest opposition party, was arrested yesterday in La Chorrera, 33 km west of Panama City, a party spokesman reported today.

The spokesman said that Ossa, who was traveling with his wife Francisca, "was forced to get out of his car and was taken to La Chorrera's military garrison, where so far he has been held "incommunicado." The reason for his arrest is unknown.

The source added that PDC lawyers were not able to carry out any legal action on behalf of Ossa due to the incidents related to the military rebellion in the capital.

An FDP spokesman in La Chorrera contacted by ACAN-EFE said that he was not authorized to confirm or deny Ossa's arrest.

Attorney General Carlos Villalaz said last week that judicial authorities are studying a list of politicians "who have acted against the economy and made calls to subvert public order."

PDC President Ricardo Arias and eight others were arrested 1 October while touring various provinces in the interior of the country.

Arias, who is also vice president of the International Christian Democracy, was released 2 October along with his companions, after authorities charged him with actions against state security and the nation's economy by promoting a campaign under the slogan "Not One Cent More" (to the government)This campaign asks Panamanians to delay payments on taxes and public services, and to stop buying government lottery tickets.

Rodriguez Continues With Scheduled Visit, Speech

Still Slated To Address UNGA

PA0310172189 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1647 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Text] United Nations, 3 Oct (EFE)—Panamanian Provisional President Francisco Rodriguez and his advisers were non-committal today regarding the shootouts that took place this morning at the main headquarters of the Panama Defense Forces [FDP].

A spokesman said that the presidential delegation did not have any information regarding the incidents, and that Rodriguez still plans to address the 44th UNGA this afternoon as scheduled.

Some Panamanian opposition sectors in the United States said that the shootouts are part of a coup attempt perpetrated by FDP dissidents against the Noriega regime.

Other opposition sources that are here accompanying opposition vice presidential candidate Guillermo Ford said that the situation is confusing and that they did not have any reliable reports regarding the cause of the incidents.

These sources, however, said that opposition leaders Guillermo Endara and Ricardo Arias Calderon had taken refuge at "secure" locations following an alleged attempt to attack Endara with a bomb on 2 October.

The sources added that, according to reports from Panama, Lieutenant Colonel Nivaldo Madrinan—Noriega's right-hand man—might have been wounded in the shootouts.

Refuses Statement on Coup

PA0310183189 Paris AFP in Spanish 1751 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Text] New York (UN), 3 Oct (AFP)—Panamanian Provisional President Francisco A. Rodriguez refused to make statements when he entered the UN Headquarters today to meet with the secretary general and speak to the General Assembly.

Rodriguez was received by UN protocol officers with the attention given to a head of state. He passed in front of 50 reporters, his face looking very tense, and he immediately entered the elevator that was to take him to the meeting with Javier Perez de Cuellar.

A few moments before reaching UN Headquarters, Rodriguez ignored the fact that a group of young Panama Defense Forces officers had rebelled against General Manuel Antonio Noriega. The young officers accepted Rodriguez' provisional government, but also promised to call new elections under OAS supervision.

Panamanian Ambassador to the UN Leonardo Kam confirmed to AFP that the provisional president will talk to the General Assembly but will modify his speech "to bring it up to date."

Rodriguez made statements on 2 October in New York, where he rejected the possibility of new elections "while U.S. aggression continues."

Addresses UN General Assembly

PA0410084589 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0000 GMT 4 Oct 89

[Address by Provisional President Francisco Rodriguez to the United Nations General Assembly in New York—live; broadcast in progress]

[Text] President, Secretary General, delegates. Mr President, in the name of the Panamanian delegatioin, I wish to sincerely congratulate you on the timely election that put in your able hands the responsibility of presiding over the of this General Assembly. The presidency of this 44th Assembly will at all times enjoy the Panamanian delegation's support and cooperation. The success of your activities will be to a large extent due to Your Exclellency's vast experience and will-known devotion, particulary with regard to the solution of the most pressing problems of this organization's member states, such as the preservation of peace and concerted efforts to eradicate this affront to mankind, apartheid.

In your opening speech, you described Third World problems in such a way that all of us looked upon this assembly's works with even greater hope. I am also pleased to congratulate the Secretary General and his assistants on the organization's activities. The contents of your speech clearly showed to us the arduous and intelligent effort carried out to settle some of the most difficult issues that afflict the world. As Panamanian

provisional presidetn. I will refer to a matter that is also important, particularly for small nations, reiterating the reports and concepts expressed by other Panamanian presidents before this very podium during most of this decade. Once again I am reporting that the U.S. Government has continued to violate the terms of the Panama Canal treaties and international laws governing civilized coexistence between sovereign states. Not even the UN accords with the U.S. Government have succeeded in checking the cruelty with which we are harassed. Not all of the Panamanian diplomats and officials who should be here are here, because they were refused visas to enter the United States. A visa was also refused to a Panamanian ambassador on a special mission to the Security Council session of 11 August, violating the U.S. Government's duty toward the United Nations.

The reports presented by Panama at this and other world forums concerning the so-called Law 96-70 of the U.S. Congress, and other impositions and practices with which the most recent U.S. governments have insisted on disobeying the treaties, thus diminishing the sovereignty, economy, and security of my country and harming the interests of the international community that benefit from the Canal, are still valid. Over the past 27 months, my country has been the victim of a very intense disinformation campaign with regard to the country's real situation to discredit our authorities as part of a brutal program of political, diplomatic, and financial pressure. There has been interference in our domestic affairs and we have been threatened militarily to try to bend us, denigrating, isolating, and impoverishing our people to subvert the country's institutional order and submit us to the U.S. will. This shows that there still exist in the world power centers that make it difficult and costly for a small nation to cling to its identity and seek its own social and political answers, according to the demands of its people's idiosyncrasies in realizing its own destiny.

Nevertheless, despite the many obstacles, a transforming movement that did not fit traditional patterns began to take shape in the late 1960's. Guided by General Omar Torrijos, Panama started a new governmental effort in 1968. This movement was marked by an emphasis on the people's aspirations to overcome ignorance, backwardness, and hopelessness. This is to say, to democratize the opportunities for progress and welfare in all sectors of our society. But this effort was considered dangerous. It appeared to be even more dangerous because the banner of anticommunism could not be raised against it. The social indicators of the past 20 years are clear by themselves. In 1968, the life expectancy of the Panamanian people was 64.3 years. In 1987, when the open aggression started, the average was 72 years. Infant mortality, which was 51.6 for every 1,000 live birth, had dropped to 22.9. Instead of 189 health centers at the beginning, we now had 608. The population covered by the social security system with free medical and dental attention, which was 16.5 percent, reached 62.5 percent. The number of people with the benefit of drinking water rose from 65 percent to 86.2 percent. In 1968, 11,992 students enrolled at the university. This figure rose to 56,667 in 1987. According to the 1970 census, the illiteracy rate was 20.7 and dropped to 13.2 percent in 1980. In this decade, literacy programs have been increased many times, and telephone and electricity services have been extended to virtually the entire country. In June 1987, economic growth was approximately 6 percent. This figure was among the highest in Latin America that year.

As a result of the aggression, the national economy decreased by an amount equivalent to 20 percent of the GNP. Fiscal revenue dropped by 40 percent, while the unemployment rate doubled. Thousands of small businesses went bankrupt. More than 60,000 workers were dismissed. A shortage of staple items, medicines, and hospital equipment occurred. The economic aggression was designed to make the people suffer to change their political behavior.

To these actions we must add intensive interference in the country's domestic affairs. Among other things, the Washington government seized the Panamanian nation's money deposited in U.S. banks, ordered U.S. corporations and the Panama Canal Commission to stop paying taxes in Panama, and suspended payments that had to be made, not only according to the treaties signed between the two countries, but in obedience to U.S. laws. To these insults, we must add the instructions given to U.S. businesses operating in our country to illegally seize bank accounts and securities and stop settling debts with those included on a blacklist of officials and businessmen—whose sole crime has been to continue to defend Panama's interests. We must also mention harassment in the international financial field and in multilateral organizations, of which we are members. This is to suffocate, through lack of resources, the nation's efforts to recover the economy and meet the Panamanian people's basic needs.

Consequently, the U.S. Government is trying to impose in Latin America and the Caribbean a new colonial system, establishing dependent and weak governments pressured by the economic crisis that has been provoked, and through financial terrorism. These governments in many instances were formed by the manipulation of the populations of these countries with disinformation propaganda, economic blackmail, and political interference; ultimately they finally became states the sovereignty of which can only be applied in accordance with the U.S. interests. What Panama is experiencing is just an early manifestation of a strategy for continental domination intended to distort our historic ideals for independence and annul our true democratization plans. The U.S. aggression has been met with an intensive patriotic mobilization of the Panamanian people in an irreversible reaffirmation of our nationalism. In view of the failure of its plans, the U.S. Government has reverted to other, equally ignoble instruments. In another open violation of the canal treaties, the U.S. Government has continued to send fresh contingents and equipment to its military installations in our country, and carry out

numerous public demonstrations of warlike force, which, in addition to being illegal and unjustified are dangerously designed to intimidate, threaten, and harass the Panamanian people. Arguing later that these deployments are exercises that they supposedly have a right to conduct, either with bizarre pretexts or with no justification at all, troops and armed, armored vehicles accompanied by combat helicopters have frequently raided territory of exclusive Panamanian jurisdiction. They have even closed national highways, and militarily occupied the largest water treatment plant that supplies drinking water to one-third of the country's population. In addition, contingents in plainclothes, but with combat armament, have been deployed aboard vehicles with private license plates through densely populated neighborhoods in Panama City.

The frequency and seriousness of these intimidating actions increased in August, while there was open talk in a U.S. Congress subcommittee of an armed attack against Panama, and the head of the so-called Southern Command, illegally installed on Panamanian soil, publicly boasted of its determination to subdue the country by blood and fire in a matter of hours.

As a record of all this, in the written text of the declaration I am delivering today to the General Assembly, no mention is made of the latest incidents of warlike provocations by the United States in my country. This past weekend, with an arrogant and threatening attitude, Southern Command troops did not allow my fellow citizens to make an elementary show of human solidarity and assist U.S. soldiers who died aboard a helicopter that crashed at sea when the craft was flying at extremely low altitude, sowing panic among hundreds of bathers on a beach under Panamanian jurisdiction. This probably prevented all or several of the soldiers who were trapped inside the stricken craft from being rescued alive. Also, as a consequence of this campaign against the patriotic forces, the government again had to quell today a new attempt at subversion that was prevented because of the strong will for struggle of the people and the Panamanian armed forces.

Previously, as the capstone of the United States' strategy to intervene in our electoral process—which the U.S. Administration has already admitted—they gave over $10 million to the Panamanian opposition for its electoral activities. As if this were not enough, the United States went so far as to condemn the results of the elections in advance, and to mention publicly the possibility of sending U.S. troops to kidnap the commander in chief of the FDP. This is an act of state terrorism, which has been repeatedly condemned in resolutions issued by the General Assembly.

The meddling by the United States as a warring and deliberative party in the Panamanian elections affected freedom of suffrage to such an extent that the Electoral Tribunal decided to annul the elections through a resolution that was declared constitutional by a unanimous ruling of the Supreme Court of Justice. The foregoing actions represent serious violations of international laws and the UN Charter. They have even been committed with ostentatious arrogance in the presence of officials of a regional organization [the OAS]. Panama expects the community of nations to weigh the potential consequences that the increase in the U.S. military threat to Panama entails for peace and the validity of the international legal system.

The Panamanian people's patriotic mobilization has resulted in the creation of civilian brigades formed by volunteers who are firmly determined to resist—at all costs—and defend our national sovereignty and self-determination.

To further clearly explain the nature of the conflict, I must report that in our case the United States cannot use the excuses it usually uses for its military interventions. Over the past 27 months, there has not been a single incident that affects the efficient operation of the canal. Throughout Panama there have been no reports of deaths of U.S. civilians or soldiers that can be blamed on an untoward incident or a Panamanian citizen. Furthermore, it is even more absurd to use this excuse if we add that over the past 86 years of living in close contact with U.S. citizens, even under offensive discriminatory conditions, and despite arrogant treatment, there has never been a single act of terrorism against a U.S. civilian or soldier or against his property, by a Panamanian citizen or a citizen of another country in Panamanian territory. With every right and much pride, I can state that U.S. citizens are safer in Panama than in any U.S. city. Our statistics, as well as U.S. statistics, are proof of this. It would be very difficult to find a people other than the Panamanian people who are given to not holding ill feelings or who are determined to talk despite the cost of the sacrifice that reciprocal agreements call for. That is why we have kept ourselves as an example of tranquility amid the desolation and violence that unfortunately have marked the recent decades of history of the American continent. These expressions of our idiosyncracies show very special characteristics of the national identity we are creating. Furthermore, they condition our process toward a purely Panamanian democracy.

If we were to impartially evaluate the results of the past 2 decades of human rights in Panama, without attempting to compare ourselves to any other country in this or any other hemisphere, the numbers would prove that deep respect for human dignity is the backbone of our liberation movement. Over the past 3 years of an artificial dissension forced on society, there have been no political murders, no missing persons, no torture chambers, and the total number of arrests and police actions are so few that in many other countries these have been 10 or 100 times surpassed in a matter of days.

Our Defense Forces are not a traditional Army organized as a repressive force. Furthermore, our Defense Forces are the genuine expression of our people. Our soldiers prepare to better fulfill the demands that result from the canal

treaties that by right force us to accept growing responsibilities for its protection and defense, in the hopes of definitely replacing the U.S. troops temporarily stationed in Panama for these legal reasons. Those who make an effort to put down and prevent the training of these national armed forces are only hiding the intention of using the excuse that we are not properly trained, in an attempt to justify the extension of a U.S. military presence. That is the truth behind the political and propagandistic rhetoric used against Panama to conceal the interventionist and aggressive intentions—with sordid charges against the social role of the Panama Defense Forces.

The Panamanian people know that the involvement of a president of a great power in the world situation depends on his relations with subordinates. We also know that it is here, and in the sinister cliques of secret governments, where many violations are conceived.

We know very well that we must overcome this situation before we can counter the current U.S. insistence to make the continent learn its lesson, and not follow the example of the Panamanian people's nationalist struggle.

That is why I will take advantage of this solemn occasion to reiterate what I said when I took over as provisional president of the Republic of Panama. I said that despite the military aggression and despite the constant threat of the use of force against us, we do not intend to lead or promote any movement against the lives or against the economic interests of the Americans. In addition, we are willing to restore friendly ties without resentment, but with the condition that no sacrifices of sovereignty and independence are imposed on us.

Over the past few months, the Panamanian Government has shown that it is willing to hold talks with Washington, and with the internal opposition. We want to find worthy and fair formulas for an agreement that can guarantee the normalization of the country without interference, aggression, or foreign threats.

This is the only way to find proper solutions to the Panamanian democratization process. These efforts have not been successful because of the U.S. Government's determination to implement a mistaken policy, thereby showing their ignorance of our reality.

Showing its spirit of continental fraternity and knowing the limits of the OAS Charter, the Panamanian Government welcomed the steps taken by that regional organization in the search for solutions to the conflict between Panama and the United States. We showed our willingness to cooperate without hesitation so that valid channels of negotiation could be established—which are still open. The provisional government I am heading has begun a broad discussion of an economic and social plan to consolidate the recovery we have already begun to achieve.

Likewise, the government is taking measures to fully restore the democratization process by means of elections that can guarantee the free expression of the people's conscience. However, the free will of the people cannot be expressed as long as they are being hounded by economic pressure, and as long as they face the threat of military attack. How can they speak of free elections when they are sabotaging the development of a democratic process by threatening to cut the people's jugular vein?

In this context, we must mention that when they arrive in Panama, intellectuals, politicians, journalists, diplomats, world leaders, and foreign envoys are frequently surprised to see a situation that is different from what they see in the disinformation networks. Not only do the basic structures of democratic coexistence remain intact, but the institutions have only undergone unavoidable alterations, due to military threats and the shameless intervention of one nation in the internal affairs of another so as to impose an artificial and arbitrary political model.

The provisional government fulfills the requirements of running the country and of meeting its international commitments, and it does so in a peaceful climate without resorting to the forceful imposition of its authority. However, there are no dupes in my government who believe it is necessary to permanently extend the conflict between our small nation and a world power like the United States.

Even though Panamanians, in my government or outside the government, in the FDP or outside the military institution, are enough to preserve our national identity before the world, we will not avoid our democratization commitment, and we will not hesitate in our efforts to accomplish that goal.

For 27 months, the U.S. Government has kept Panama in a state of emergency; what is in danger is the very existence of the Panamanian state. None of our efforts, none of our sacrifices to cling to the democratization process are being recognized or taken into account. Instead, the harassment has increased because of the distorsion of our reality. For this reason, I ask that the United Nations, through the applicable mechanisms, contribute toward our efforts by keeping a careful and exhaustive watch on the path my government will tread to pursue this goal of democracy and that it give testimony of the actions of other governments to either hinder or thwart those efforts.

Mr President, I have not tried to dramatize our situation, but to outline facts as they are. Panama is hovering between consolidating its presence in the concert of free nations or becoming a protectorate, or coming under a new type of colonial status couched in pretty words. We represent something more than a simple wish of a country to execute its own plans according to the interests of its citizens. Panama is a country invaded, whose key obligation is to break the bonds of gross meddling in its internal affairs, that undermines its independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity and tramples on the basic rights of its citizens.

The aggression we are enduring is due in large part to Panama's loyalty to the principles of nonalignment, and to its advocacy of neutrality, as well as friendly relations with all countries of the world. It is also due, to a large extent, to the refusal to lend our territory and military assets to assist in foreign aggression against a fraternal nation. It is due to our rejection of any form of foreign occupation anywhere, and to our defense without reservation of the right of every country to establish its own system of government without meddling of any kind.

The Panamanian people's current struggle does not lead us to forget others. On the contrary, the progress that is being made in other parts of the world increases our satisfaction. My country resolutely supports all efforts to eradicate apartheid indefinitely. Our opposition to racism involves not only a question of humaneness, but the very fruitful experience of a society in which there is not even the slightest trace of racial discrimination. As if complying with an honorable duty, my country has responded by sending a delegation of the Panama Defense Forces as part of the contingents that are supervising the implementation of agreements that will guarantee Namibia's independence.

As a matter of fact, we warn that during the elections to be held in Namibia and in the Nicaraguan elections, it will be necesssary to avert any kind of foreign meddling which—like in the recent case of Panama—may interfere with the exercise of the sovereign will of the nationals of those countries. How can anyone speak of free balloting when a nation provides financing, organization, and financial and advertising assistance to a political sector in another country; if communications systems are established in other countries for brainwashing purposes; and if the secret services of a government establishes a network to infiltrate and bribe all organizations of the country that is preparing to elect a government through popular balloting? It is not possible to hold a truly democratic contest when a foreign government resorts to coercion through hunger and hardship, and bribes the leaders of other governments; and if—in addition to psychological warfare—the electoral opportunity of a population is marred by a threat of destruction, ruin, mourning, and terror.

We also hope that the joint plan of the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity for decolonization of Western Sahara can be carried out soon to forever ensure the independence and self-determination of the Saharan people.

We advocate negotiated solutions in Kampuchea and the Middle East. We cannot forget that progress with detente everywhere is made in direct proportion to the recognition of peoples' inalienable rights.

In this sense, Panama continues in solidarity with the Puerto Rican people and their struggle for self-determination. We urge everyone to continue to support the efforts of the secretary general designed to fulfill the aspirations for independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of the Cypriot people. This struggle is supported by the Panamanian people. Likewise, Panama hopes that the Korean Peninsula will soon be peacefully united.

Central America naturally has a special meaning for Panama. We were pleased with the agreements reached by the Central American presidents, and hope that they will never again be hindered for arbitrary and unjustifiable reasons of other countries. Our permanent conviction that the Malvinas Islands are an integral part of Argentina leads us to hope that relations between Buenos Aires and London will shortly resume and that the demands for decolonization being made by the world are heard. The progress we see today, detente among the great powers, agreements to eliminate medium range missiles, the Geneva agreements on Afghanistan, and the cease-fire between Iran and Iraq—which we hope will soon become a permanent peace treaty—must not make us think that all the big problems are about to be definitely solved. Many people of the world continue to endure the rigors and dangers of that terrible plague of drug trafficking. This represents a serious threat for the future of humankind and for the stability of institutions and countries. When we see criminal organizations handling sums of money that exceed the gross national product of many nations, when we see that a handful of criminals can accumulate enough material power to challenge legally appointed authorities or unleash insurrections of the magnitude of an internal war, then we must open our eyes to the fact that there is a radical decomposition of the basic concept of human society. The time has come to recognize the roots of the problem and find a solution without demagogy.

Likewise, Third World countries, especially Latin American countries, are enduring the burden of their foreign debt and the pressures for payment that demand a growing quota of sacrifice of the sovereignty and national assets. Meanwhile, the urgent needs of their people become more pressing and unpostponable. With this, new forms of neo-colonial subjugation are beginning to be seen. It seems that man's progress in some areas is achieved at the cost of steps backward in other areas.

It is not right that small and poor countries should make an effort to meet their obligations within the international community to turn around and find they are still being cheated. My country's situation is a good example of this. As Comptroller General, the post I held until the day I assumed the Presidency, I can vouch for the conscientious manner in which Panama complied with its financial obligations until 1987. Only because of the coercive measures implemented by the U.S. Government against Panama did we fail to meet our commitments after that time. When confronted with the choice of withholding payments to our foreign creditors or letting our people die of hunger, we chose the first option, as would have any government aware of its moral and social responsibilities.

Mr President, to conclude, I once again ask this assembly to make the world aware of the Panamanian situation. If

the Panamanian people's self-determination, their right to work in peace, and their will for neutrality and friendship with all people and nations becomes a reality, it would mean greater wealth and welfare for the the people of the United States, greatness for their leaders, and greater glory for the ideals they profess. It would mean more than our servile submission through the use of military force. The cost of this second option can be seen in our determination to continue, without tiring, to defend the homeland. The first path, the one followed throughout world history, is the one that leads to lasting and fruitful benefits. If the United States sets arrogance and coercion aside, it will surely find in us a friendly people located in the heart of America, a people who at the time of reciprocal concessions demanded by interdependency will be more willing and understanding than a people who have only harassment, privation, humiliation, and wounds to show. We are a nation where there is so much to do that the citizens of many other countries find among us abundant chances for wealth and happiness. The changes in world trade, transportation, and communications enhance the growing importance of Panama's geographic position. My government knows that an accelerated rhythm of the development of wealth that this great resource represents for the Panamanian people cannot be separated from our fair and respectful association with other nations and other peoples.

I now comply with the pleasant duty of rendering specific recognition to Your Excellency for the terms in your speech to open the work of this 44th assembly that referred to Panama's situation. In effect, the current conflict between the United States and Panama is incompatible with peace, and whether or not we Panamanians can devote ourselves to our daily duties in an atmosphere of security—free of violence—depends on a prompt solution to it.

In the solemn atmosphere of this chamber, I reiterate my government's absolute disposition to settle our differences with the U.S. Government based on mutual recognition of the legitimate interests of both nations. To establish a climate of good faith, the United States must comply with the provisions of the 1977 Panama Canal Treaty, and appoint the Panamanian administrator we have proposed, who must assume this position on 1 January 1990—in other words, in less than 3 months. As for us, the offer I am now making will leave no doubt about our good faith.

Some governments have begun to discuss the idea of creating a multinational force to fight drug trafficking. We feel that this idea deserves deep analysis, weighing the difficulties its creation may entail together with the great destructive power the networks of this criminal trade have accumulated. If formulas are found for a multinational action of this nature to be the subject of an international convention—in such a way as to safeguard national sovereignties and to keep its operational mechanisms from representing a threat to the independence of any nation—then the Republic of Panama not only states that it would enthusiastically endorse the initiative, but will go even further. Based on the long experience we have gained in the struggle against the illegal drug trade, and because our country is not a producer or consumer, and because our achievements in this area have been recognized by authorities around the whole world, I declare that the Republic of Panama would agree to have the permanent seat and base of operations of this multinational force in our territory as a new service that the strategic position of the Panamanian isthmus offers to the international community.

If what the United States seeks is a new relationship with Panama with regard to military bases, why does it not say it openly? Let it propose this without disguising or concealing it with an attempt at imposition through the formula of using force without war. In any event, with my government or any government in Panama, whatever decisions have to be adopted will have to be in keeping with the will of the Panamanian people according to Article 310 of our Constitution, which establishes the referendum as the procedure for ratification of international agreements of such a vital nature for our Republic. The Panamanian people themselves would have to be a direct contracting party.

Mr President, the Republic of Panama has been turned into a major research laboratory by the most powerful nation in the world, which has usurped leadership on human rights. In my country, the essential elements to seize governments and territories based on a low intensity war have been set into motion. This includes such means as psychological harassment, economic aggression by seizing goods and properties of poor nations, the indebtedness of countries with no major resources to permit collection in the future, and by blackmail, which tramples on their sovereignty and dignity.

To this we must add the military threat, aggression through the arrogant use of better weapons, and provocations against a people who are traditionally peaceful. This laboratory, which fabricated the so-called Panama crisis, stretches to the point of intimidating other nations to pressure and force them to isolate 2 million Panamanians, who have not had or have no record of hostility, racism, aggressiveness, or offensive expansion. Their only sin has been to uphold the banner against colonialism, apartheid, and anything that represents imperialism. All 2 million Panamanians are to be left in peace, to work in peace, sharing and enjoying the product of our efforts, free and at peace.

Thank you, very much.

Education Minister Says Classes To Be Held 4 Oct

PA0410020489 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0113 GMT 4 Oct 89

[Text] Education Minister Juan Bosco Bernal reported tonight that there will be classes tomorrow in all primary and secondary schools of the country, except night schools.

Wives of Arrested Military Officers Stage Protest

PA04'0003189 Panama City Cadena Exitosa in Spanish 2200 GMT 28 Sep 89

[Text] The wifes and relatives of the Panamanian military officers arrested for participating in an aborted coup against General Manuel Antonio Noriega on 16 March 1988, demonstrated today in front of the attorney general's office to protest the poor health of their husbands.

The wives stated that they have clinical evidence that their husbands need medical treatment to control malnutrition-related ailments.

According to several protesting wives, on 25 September President Francisco Rodriguez received a delegation of relatives of the arrested offices to become familiar with their cases. President Rodriguez promised them a prompt reply to their freedom petitions. However, the wives added today that the authorities consulted have told them that the officers accused of staging the coup will not be granted a presidential pardon.

Until now, the relatives of the arrested officers have been unable to meet with Gen Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of the Panama Defense Forces, to voice their concerns.

A spokesperson for the wives stated that they have sent letters to the chiefs of garrisons, military zones, and to the members of the Military Strategic Council requesting their mediation on behalf of their former comrades-in-arms, who have not been released from prison. Enough lies, said one of the wives, who added that they have exhausted all legal means to obtain the freedom of their husbands. She added that the jailed officers are victims of cruel treatment and coercion and that they are allowed visits only once a week.

All of these complaints are included in a letter sent to the United Nations, to where President Rodriguez will travel to address the UN General Assembly on 3 October.

Vice President Meets With U.S. Lawye[rs]

PA0410061789 Panama City Domestic Ser[vice] in Spanish 0423 GMT 4 Oct 89

[Text] Provisional Vice President Carlos Oz[ores] has met with 12 U.S. lawyers who arrived in Panam[a] to personally learn about the country's reality. The vi[sit] coincides with the commemoration of the 11th anniv[ersary] of the signing of the treaties, and the most di[fficult] stage through which the Panamanian people are passing because of the imperialist aggression.

Dr. Vernon Mason, who heads the group of ju[rists], said the lawyers intend to gather all the information in Panama they can and then report the truth about Pa[nama] in the United States. This is because of the disinfor[mation] campaign currently in progress in the United St[ates], and the U.S. people's ignorance of this reality.

In addition, Dr. Leonardo Johnson, a P[anamanian] lawyer residing in the United States, said the jurists intend to research in depth the violations of t[he] Carter treaties, the commercial embargo im[posed] by the United States, which aggravates the Pana[manian] economic situation, and the nonpayment of ta[xes] withheld from Panamanian workers.

Departing Cuban Diplomat Recognized, G[iven] Award

PA0410003689 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 28 Sep 89 p A-4

[Text] The government has awarded F[elix] Luna Mederos, counselor of the Cuban Embassy in Panama, the Order of Vasco Nunez de Balboa, at the rank of high official, in recognition of his work over the p[ast] few years in strengthening the ties of friendship betwe[en] Cuba and our country. Luna Mederos leaves many fri[ends] behind in Panama and shall always be well remembe[red] in social and diplomatic circles here.

Argentina

Foreign Minister Comments on Colombia, Panama

PY0310192089 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1900 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 3 Oct (DYN)—Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo today said that "if Colombia requests it, the Executive Branch would seek permission from Congress to send troops to that country."

Regarding the present conflict in Panama, Cavallo said that "if the Panamanian inhabitants reject the resulting situation, the Argentine Government will reduce diplomatic relations with that country."

Cavallo Speaks on Surveillance, Exclusion Zone

PY0310190389 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1830 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 3 Oct (NA)—Argentina has proposed to Great Britain the disbanding of the National Commission for the Surveillance of British Assets, which was created during the 1982 war in the South Atlantic, in return for the lifting of the military exclusion zone that the United Kingdom set up around the islands.

Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo made this announcement this afternoon during a luncheon organized by the Argentine Advertisers Chamber. He also revealed that the United States will not apply their proposed sanction against Argentina over patents on medicines.

Views Ties With UK, U.S. Action

PY0410034689 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2040 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Text]Buenos Aires, 3 Oct (NA)—Argentina has proposed to the United Kingdom to negotiate at the 17 and 18 October meetings in Madrid the dissolution of the National Commission for the Surveillance of British Assets in Argentina—created in 1982 during the South Atlantic war—in exchange for the lifting of the 150-mile military exclusion zone around the Malvinas Islands.

This was stated by Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo during a luncheon with the Argentine Chamber of Advertising Agencies. During the luncheon Cavallo also reported that the United States has withdrawn its intention to apply trade sanctions to Argentina for a problem with medical patent rights.

The foreign minister also reported that President Carlos Menem "has approved" a project "to privatize the commercial attache offices in Argentine embassies abroad."

After Angel Carou, president of the Chamber of Advertising Agencies, had given a speech in support of Argentine foreign policy, Cavallo answered a question by saying: "We are willing to suspend the surveillance of British assets if the military exclusion zone is lifted."

Since 1982 this commission maintains government observers in about 100 British companies in Argentina and imposes restrictions on their remittance of revenues abroad, on capital movements, and on the sale of assets.

Cavallo said: "We do not want the 200-mile fishing restriction zone around the Malvinas to be lifted right now," but we do want the military zone to be lifted "since it prevents the innocent traffic of Argentine ships."

The foreign minister admitted that "we have positive expectations" regarding this matter and "we hope that after the Madrid meeting the points of distrust will be completely dispelled," such as keeping that military zone.

Cavallo described the Argentine Government's proposal to resume talks with the United Kingdom as "simple," and he admitted that in the beginning some "esoteric" interpretations were made when it was said that the sovereignty issue of the islands—protected by the "umbrella" formula—will not be negatively affected by the resumption of talks.

"The main objective is to maintain relations with a country like the United Kingdom, which will be a member of the united Europe in 1992, and to reestablish relations" with the Kelpers, Cavallo said.

The minister said that when the current Malvinas inhabitants "become confident that their legitimate interests will be respected" by Argentina, the moment will come to recover Argentina sovereignty over the islands.

As a result of the resumption of talks with the United Kingdom, Cavallo said, "we have already talked with the European Community to see about the possibility of signing a cooperation agreement like the ones it signed with Brazil."

Changing subjects, Cavallo reported that during President Menem's trip to the United States, U.S. Ambassador Carla Hills told Menem that her government "has decided to suspend the legal process initiated 6 months ago against Argentina for not respecting patent right norms for medical products."

The minister explained that Argentina had been running the risk of suffering the consequences of the U.S. Law No 301 on economic sanctions "equivalent to the harm" suffered by the U.S. laboratories for the patent rights problem.

Cavallo said that before Menem traveled to the United States, Argentine and foreign chemical industry representatives had agreed on a method to register new patents. However, since this "is not enough," the Argentine Government has promised to send to Congress in the next 2 years a draft bill outlining a new method for establishing patent rights for new products.

Cavallo said that there will be enough time for the national industry to adapt to the international norms in the field, as happened in Mexico, Italy, and Spain.

Cavallo was accompanied at the luncheon by Military Household Chief Matias Ordonez and roving Ambassador Amalia de Fortabat. The minister reported that he has agreed with Economy Minister Nestor Rapanelli to "privatize the Argentine Embassy commercial attache offices"—currently occupied by members of the Industry and Foreign Trade Secretariats—based on a plan created by Elvio Baldinelli for the Argentine Council of International Relations (CARI).

Cavallo said that they have also decided that the [word indistinct] of consular rights for export as well as the legal approval of invoices can be done in Buenos Aires. He also said that the government is studying the possibility of creating the post of honorary consul.

U.S. Encouraged To Test Pampas Aircraft

PY0310104789 Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 2 Oct 89 p 3

[Text] Argentine Air Force Chief Brigadier Jose Julia has offered to send a Pampa plane to the United States so they can "break it if they can, and if not, buy it."

Julia, who accompanied President Carlos Menem on his trip to the United States, has stated that he did not offer the Pampa airplane for sale to his U.S. counterpart "because the state and not the Air Force is in charge of buying it."

He said that he suggested that a training plane "be taken to the U.S. Air Force, be left there for the people to break it if they can, and if not, buy it."

Brig Julia added: "We will continue our talks with General Wellchs during the first months of next year when he comes to visit us in Argentina."

"I personally think that it is a good idea to have a plane up there and to have them test it," he said. He went on to say that during his U.S. visit he talked "with more people than expected because I also talked with members of the LTV [not further identified] enterprise, who were very interested in the Pampa project."

Referring further to LTV, he said that "members of that company have promised to visit us in November to present a specific offer" to purchase some of those Argentine-made airplanes. Three planes will be sent to Colombia to cooperate in the struggle against drug traffickers.

Asked about the Condor-2 missile, Brig Julia has stated that "U.S. business and Air Force sectors have not expressed much interest in that project."

Regarding the U.S. Senate decision to lift the "Humphrey-Kennedy" amendment which had prevented Argentina from purchasing materiel from the United States, Julia said that he was "very suprised" by the decision.

He added: "For the Air Force this decision surely represents an important oportunity to procure many things we have needed for a long time, and this amendment has prevented us from procuring them."

After stating that the Argentine Air Force will be able to be reequipped with "weapons spare parts," Julia added that "the Argentine Air Force can be self-sufficient as far as Pampa training planes are concerned."

Julia also added that the next weapons manufacturing project aims at the construction of a fighter plane, "but for that project we must think about the year 2000 or 2010."

Menem May Meet Bolivia's Paz Zamora in Jujuy

PY0310222889 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1045 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Text] San Salvador de Jujuy, 3 Oct (TELAM)—Juan Carlos Villamea, economy minister of Jujuy Province, has announced here that Argentine President Carlos Menem may meet Bolivian President Jaime Paz Zamora in Jujuy.

In an interview with TELAM, Villamea said the president may meet within the framework of the bilateral relations agreement. "Since the Bolivian Government is entirely predisposed to the meeting, we will contact our Foreign Ministry to take the necessary steps to prepare for the meeting."

Commenting on the visit that a group of Jujuy businessmen and officials made to Santa Cruz de la Sierra—where they took part in an international exhibition—and then to La Paz, Villamea said the visit "was highly positive."

He said that during the visit to Santa Cruz de la Sierra, the group signed an agreement for the macroeconomic study of the local needs, potential, and priorities to allow for better development and integration of the regions included in the South American Midwestern Interegional Business Group [Grupo Empresario Inter-Regional del Centro Oeste Sudamericano], "GEICOS." The northwestern Argentine provinces, the southern Bolivian region, the southern Peruvian region, and the northern Chilean region are part of the "GEICOS." Credit to finance the macroeconomic study will be requested from the international banks—such as the World Bank, the IDB [Inter-American Development Bank], and the Andean Development Corporation—through this business institution, which also includes representatives of the region's governments.

It will also be suggested that the foreign and transportation ministers of the member countries be invited for the next "GEICOS" meeting, which will be held in Asuncion, Paraguay, at the beginning of November. During the meeting, a note of understanding on the proposed objectives will be signed.

Commenting on the agreement for the planned studies, Villamea said: "The Chamber of Industry and Commerce of Santa Cruz de la Sierra has reacted with the dynamism demanded by the circumstances."

Villamea also commented on the "La Paz Letter of Intent," which was signed by the Bolivian Mining and Metallurgy Ministry and the Economy Ministry of Jujuy Province, within the framework of the regional physical and economic integration program.

The letter of intent agrees to the creation of a bilateral committee to evaluate, analyze, and survey the region's mineral and metallurgic resources.

This committee's first formal working meeting will be held in Jujuy on 6 November. The body will be represented by officials and experts of the Bolivian Mining and Metallurgy Ministry and of the Mining and Energy Resources Secretariat of Jujuy Province.

Juan Carlos Villamea also reported on a meeting held with the officials of the Bolivian Industry, Trade, and Tourism Ministry. During the meeting, officials of the two countries organized the "first 'Jujuy in Tarija' Bolivian-Argentine meeting," which will be held after 15 November 1989 in the Bolivian town of Tarija.

"During that meeting, our trade, cultural, and industrial sectors will get together to exchange ideas and knowledge that will lead us to a better physical, cultural, and economic integration, which is so necessary to our two countries," Villamea said.

Justice Secretary Tenders Resignation 3 Oct

PY0310192389 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1556 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 3 Oct (NA)—At noon today, Justice Secretary Julio Oyhanarte confirmed that he had tendered his resignation and that "by now" his resignation has been accepted by President Carlos Menem.

Oyhanarte based his resignation of the fact that "the brief interval during which I was scheduled to be justice secretary has ended." He said that his future "will surely be linked" to the constitutional reform being sponsored by the government.

Economy Minister on Salaries, Price Readjustment

PY0310154089 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2356 GMT 2 Oct 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 2 Oct (TELAM)—Economy Minister Nestor Rapanelli today said that the salary increase for public employees will be established before 15 October. He added that the salaries of the public employees and of the private sector employees "will be determined for the next 6 months."

During an impromptu news conference, Rapanelli denied any antagonism between the decision to readjust prices and the intention of freezing certain public utility rates. These measures are not antagonic because we were seeking to stop inflation "at any price."

Rapanelli said that, according to reports by some textile sector businessmen, textile production is increasing. In his opinion, Article 48 of the Economic Emergency Law, which establishes the amount of severence pays, should be regulated.

He said: "The amount of severence pay must be regulated because the country is still in an economic emergency and I think it is illogical to discourage the creation of new jobs through laws that are potentially onerous." He explained that Article 48 should only be implemented in the case of workers who are hired under collective bargaining terms.

[Words indistinct] its impact on prices, but explained: "We will request some type of contribution from the businessmen," and will ask them "to act responsibly."

Minister Rapanelli said that in about 3 weeks time the IMF board will formally approve a $1.4-billion stand-by [preceding word in English] loan to Argentina, and that the first installment on this loan will be released by mid-November.

He added that also in November, the Argentine debt to the Paris Club will be renegotiated. He announced that at the end of March 1990, a formal treatment will be negotiated over the due payments of the Argentine debt to the creditor banks. Carlos Carballo, the Economy Ministry advisor, will be in charge of these negotiations, Rapanelli said.

Commenting on these negotiations, he said: "Carballo is in charge of coordinating these negotiations, but this does not mean that he is alone in the project. There are also others, including Eng Alsogaray, who will contribute their experience and their ideas. It is up to Carballo, however, to define the strategy to be used."

Rapanelli said: "When two people are leading a negotiation, the negotiation becomes confusing." He added that every alternative will be explored: "The debt may be purchased beforehand, the [word indistinct] may be reduced, and the interest rate may be reduced." He believes that when the renegotiation of the debt begins with the creditor banks, "instead of choosing only one alternative and discarding the others, we may decide to adopt several."

Commenting on Finance Secretary Rodolfo Frigeri's trip to the United States, he explained that the objective of Frigeri's visit is to analyze "a mechanism for the implementation" of tax reform, and to learn from IMF expert Vito Tanzi's experience.

Rapanelli asserted, however, that the decision to levy a value added tax "is already made, despite the businessmen's lobby," which seeks to levy taxes only on sales.

Rapanelli believes that "without a tax reform plan, there will [passage indistinct]," which will be discussed in the next few days.

Debt Renegotiation With Private Banks Planned

PY0310122689 Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 30 Sep 89 Second Section p 5

[Text] Argentina will begin renegotiating its foreign debt with private banks in November. Only then we will know how much can be negotiated.

This announcement was made by Orlando Ferreres, the secretary of Coordination and Programs, who said that although our negotiation with the IMF has not been concluded, they have already accepted our memorandum and our letter of intent in which Argentina shows that "the accounts yield balanced results" and the objectives are being fulfilled. Asked aobut the country's reserves, Ferreres confirmed the economy minister's announcement that the reserves stand at $2 billion.

Ferreres denied that the "stand by" loan would be used to bring all our commitments up to date, because Argentina still has to negotiate its debt with the World Bank, the Paris, Club, and some governments.

Ferreres said Argentina owes $4 billion in back interest on the debt. He stressed that the country's problems "are very serious." The secretary added that some of these problems, like the debt, must be solved as soon as possible.

Regarding the present calm on the foreign exchange market, Ferreres said that it could last if we achieve a fiscal balance, "something that to now has been impossible to achieve because the government failed to implement the needed structural reforms and failed to deregulate the economy. Without these measures the balance will never last."

Ferreres forecasted an October inflation rate "of perhaps 5 percent, and a November and December inflation rate of 1 percent. Ferreres added that "these rates depend on seasonal factors that cannot be anticipated. [quotation marks as published]

Brazil

* U.S. Said Blocking VLS Development

33420084 Brasilia CORREIO BRAZILIENSE in Portuguese 6 Aug 89 p 16

[Article by Joaquim Monteiro: "Lacking Funds, Air Force Retires Piranha"]

[Text] According to Minister of Aeronautics Moreira Lima, the project for the development of the Piranha, the Brazilian missile, has been canceled because of the limited financial resources available to carry this undertaking forward. The project was turned over to Orbita Sistemas Aeroespaciais S.A. [Aerospace Orbit Systems, S.A.], which was established in 1987 in association with the Engesa [Specialized Engineers, Inc.], Embraer [Brazilian Aeronautics Company], ESCA [expansion unknown], IMBEL [War Materiel Industry], and PARCON [expansion unknown]. The enterprise, which still hopes to reactivate this program at some time in the future, was established for the purpose of developing aerospace equipment and manufacturing and marketing missiles and satellite launchers on domestic and foreign markets.

The supersonic aircraft of the Brazilian Air Force (FAB) are equipped with missiles. The Mirage, manufactured in France, carries the R-530 air-to-air missile and two R-550s for intercept missions. The North American F5-E used by the FAB is equipped with the French Matra. Brazil wanted to purchase the American AIM-9 Sidewinder for the wing launchers of this aircraft, but the North Americans do not export this equipment to Third World countries. The leading type of missile used by the Brazilian Navy on its frigates is the Exocet (French). With its current cost per unit, one could buy 10 Mercedes Benz convertibles.

As soon as the economic situation of the country is favorable for negotiations, the Aeronautics Ministry will try to purchase missiles to equip its supersonic aircraft—the Magic, from France, or an air-to-air missile produced in China. The estimated cost of the P-4 Sidewinder today is about $60,000. However, its performance is not up to that of the French or Chinese products. It is still possible that the Ministry of Aeronautics will purchase the Israeli Phyton missile. This weapon was recently demonstrated for technicians at the ministry, and the FAB was pleased with its performance. Its cost was estimated 2 months ago at $200,000.

Competition

In bidding, the FAB is prepared to pursue the same path as did the Army with the purchase of its helicopters, and it will face excruciating international competition. "Other international manufacturers of missiles are circling over the eagle's nest" in the hope of selling their products. The seller countries, in addition to those mentioned, include the Soviet Union, England, Italy, and Czechoslovakia. The Brazilian Air Force, which has strengthened its military fleet with 105 aircraft, including 26 F5-Es and 79 AMXs (the latter are subsonic aircraft manufactured by a Brazilian-Italian consortium), cannot do without missiles to equip them.

The Brazilian authorities responsible for the Brazilian Complete Space Mission have now become persuaded that it is not possible, at least in the short term, to count on arranging the transfer of the most modern foreign technology for the development of a medium-range missile, which only such countries as the United States, France, England, China, Italy, and the USSR have. In view of the existing difficulties, the air minister himself, Moreira Lima, insists that Brazil should turn its attention to developing its Sonda IV project. The most

difficult problem, in his opinion, is the construction of the launching vehicle. The missile, he emphasizes, can be found on the list of supplies in any country, but they will not transfer the latest technology. With the development of a Satellite Launching Vehicle (VLS), we will be halfway along toward the development of the missile. The greatest obstacle to the transfer of technology for the development of the Brazilian satellite launching rocket is that posed by the United States. Although the manufacture of the missile is not a priority goal for Brazil, the authorities involved in this sector will not allow access to any advanced technology in this field.

In the coming decade, Brazil is to manufacture a Satellite Launching Vehicle. This project is a part of the Brazilian Space Program administered by the Ministry of Aeronautics.

Satellites

In the field of communications satellites, we in Brazil are having difficulty purchasing the components necessary for the development of a satellite launcher. The United States is trying to prevent France from selling Brazil the technology for the construction of a rocket engine. The U.S. authorities argue that their position is based on the fear that, in the future, Brazil might use this technology to develop a ballistic missile, although the French authorities have given assurance that the Viking engine used in the first stage of the launching rockets does not lend itself to military uses. Next year Brazil is scheduled to launch two Ministry of Communications Brasilsats communications satellites. France is expecting a response from Brazil concerning these launchings. In the Brazilian program, the launching of this equipment by the French is linked with the granting of a license to manufacture the Viking propulsion apparatus, said to have applications in both the civil and military sectors. The transfer of the Viking technology also includes the training of Brazilian missile technicians. On the other hand, the French included a clause in these negotiations requiring a promise from Brazil to use the "Ariane 2 rocket in the launching of the two satellites." This launching is expected to cost Brazil about $100 million.

Sonda IV Project

In the coming decade, perhaps during the administration of the government which will be elected on 15 November, Brazil will build its first Satellite Launching Vehicle (VLS). This is the prospect foreseen by Minister of Aeronautics Octavio Moreira Lima, who initiated the Brazilian Space Program. The hopes at which the concrete aspects of the Sonda IV project hint will now depend on the willingness of the government leaders and the resources made available by the National Congress, which must approve the federal budget and the allocation of funds for research in the country.

Sonda IV is a part of the Program of Missile Research and Development for Civilian Uses (a part of the Brazilian Complete Space Mission), which is administered by the Ministry of Aeronautics as the real economic situation in the country allows. The program has been pursued on the basis of this guideline, including the development of the Satellite Launching Vehicle for lower orbits, with the first satellite launching planned for the beginning of the next decade. The Sonda IV project incorporates the main technologies essential for the manufacture of the VLS. This line of action involves a great many of the technological processes in the areas of compound materials, ultrahigh-resistance steel, propellants, directional control of the rocket thrust vector, engines, etc.

The next prototypes of the Sonda IV will include new technologies, in particular the system for piloting by means of a movable nozzle, in the second stage. In the last experiment, only the first stage of the rocket was equipped with a directional system. In order to achieve this goal, digital technologies for controlling the directional system are being developed with a view to replacing the present analog system in the later prototypes. Prior to the flight of the PTO-3 prototype, the nose cones were fixed and inseparable from the payload. For the subsequent flights (PTO-4 and PTO-5), they are to incorporate technologies which will allow them to be ejected at given stages in the flight.

The Sonda IV project, which has been entrusted to the Space Activities Institute under the Ministry of Aeronautics, calls for a total of five launchings (three have already been carried out) in order to develop it operationally as a probe rocket, while also, and on a parallel basis, including a series of subcomplexes and systems which will be used for the VLS. The principal task at the moment is to master control of the rocket system and the solid propellant engines, 1 meter in diameter, since they are an integral part of the VLS.

The Sonda project of the Ministry of Aeronautics, which includes Sonda I, II, III, and IV, represents the Brazilian hope in the area of leading technology for achieving advances in the manufacture of the VLS, and later, missiles, although the manufacture of missiles is not the goal of the military.

THe first rocket in the project (Sonda I) is designed for meteorological research. It can carry payloads of 5 kg to altitudes of 70 to 120 km. The mass of the payload is 4.2 kg, the total mass on launching 59 kg, the maximum velocity 1,380 meters per second, the maximum acceleration 250 meters per second, and the maximum apogee 65 km. The Sonda II is a single-stage rocket with a composite solid propellant designed for scientific research. Its engine is also used for the Sonda III.

The Sonda III is a two-stage probe rocket with composite solid propellant, which can carry a payload of 60 kg to an altitude of 600 km. Its characteristics include a payload mass of 60 kg, total mass on launching 1,581, a maximum speed of 3,120 meters per second, mass of propellant 1,095 kg, and a maximum apogee of 600 km.

Oil Council Adjusts Fuel Prices by 10 Percent

PY0410131089 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 0930 GMT 4 Oct 89

[Summary] The National Oil Council has adjusted fuel prices by an average of 10 percent. As of now 1 liter of gasoline costs 2.3 new cruzados; alcohol costs 1.52 new cruzados; diesel oil costs 0.93 new cruzados; kerosene costs 1.7 new cruzados; and a 13 kg-bottle of cooking gas costs 10.16 new cruzados.

Chile

Foreign Minister Addresses UN General Assembly

PY0410030089 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2133 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Speech by Foreign Minister Hernan Felipe Errazuriz before the UN General Assembly in New York—live; broadcast in progress]

[Text]...an objective reality that was able to prevail. There is a positive change in the international community toward Chile. Political and economic freedom in Chile is a reality, and this is the main achievement of the government of President Augusto Pinochet.

Chile has become strengthened through adversity. We have shown that no foreign pressure can influence the decision of nations when their cause is just. We have learned that the sovereignty of nations is a permanent challenge. We have also learned that the only genuine cooperation among nations is that that recognizes the independence and the dignity of all states. The Chilean people are called on to choose their own destiny. The facts show that we have fulfilled our goals.

The government of President Pinochet has realized the goals set forth in 1974: freedom of the press, a multiparty political system, open public debate, the full enforcement of individual and union rights, and economic improvement. Those are the concrete facts of a fruitful process of normalization that allowed not only civil rights but also the social, cultural, and economic rights without which any society can feel frustrated.

The progress Chile has made in its economy and the modernization of its social structure guarantee that democracy will not be a fragile or utopic adventure. Tranquillity and peace prevail in Chile. The value of moderation is now appreciated in a different manner. The ideological and revolutionary programs prevailed until 1973. This ideology tried to make a radical change in society. Now only the democratic parties have popular support and electoral possibilities. The progress made in Chile is not the result of aid or foreign inspiration. Chile owes its achievements and promising future to its people and government. They have worked hard and followed without hesitation the path of their conscience and tradition.

We have a stable currency, sustained growth, control over inflation, and a balanced fiscal budget. We have implemented an economic freedom that stimulates the creative ability of people. That policy recognizes the role of the market, rather than the state bureaucracy, in allocating resources. The progress and stability of government policies inspiresconfidence in the people who trade with my country. They know that they can trust our word, that our promises are fulfilled, and that our future belongs to our people.

The progress in Chile is bringing us to the doorstep of development. I would like to give some figures that reflect the sustained progress of the Chilean economy. The real growth in GDP after the recession of 1982 is about an average of six percent a year, and it was over 10 percent in the first half of this year.

In the last 5 years the government has created over 1 and ½ million productive jobs, reducing unemployment by half. In 1970 Chile was exporting 400 products to 58 countries, and now it is exporting 1,500 products to 112 countries. In 1973 we were exporting products worth $1.305 billion. This year our exports will go over $8 billion. In 1986 the foreign debt reached its highest peak of $19.5 billion. The debt has now been reduced to $16.8 billion.

Government expenditures on social issues have concentrated on the very poor sectors. Chileans can be proud of the achievements made in this area. In the health sector, for example, the rate of infant mortality has dropped from 82.2 per thousand in 1970 to 18.8 per thousand in 1988. The average life span grew from 61.5 years in 1970 to 71.8 years in 1988. The literacy rate has reached 94.3 percent.

In the past 16 years the world has gone through great changes. The option chosen by Chile in 1973—our commitment to expanding freedom—ran counter to many economic and political tendencies of the time.

Groups holding the same policies that failed in Chile at the end of the 1960's and the beginning of the 1970's were able to establish themselves in other places.

Now we are witnessing the collapse of the illusions and of the possibilities of totalitarian and collectivist systems. It seems that peace is being consolidated. The world powers have agreed to work for a better understanding and more rational relations. The world is becoming increasingly interdependent.

Our modern knowledge, science, technology, and resources have overcome borders and limitations. The same is true of the international community. These problems, therefore, are a challenge for world cooperation and this organization.

One of the greatest challenges facing the international community today is the drafting of effective programs to fight drug trafficking. We support Colombia for its courage to face the powerful criminal organizations that

are using the nation for their own purposes. Chile has implemented a strict preventive program to control the most dangerous manifestations of the problem. We are not a drug producing country. We are victims of drug trafficking.

In one of its first decisions on the problem, in September 1973, the government expelled a group of foreign drug traffickers who had established themselves in northern Chile, taking advantage of the prevailing political and social crisis. We are convinced that countries cannot fight the problem alone. The world has declared war on drugs. We must be aware that transitory victories will not eradicate the problem. Only with proper education will we be able to nurture the strength of our youth, alert them to the dangers of drug consumption, and prevent them from becoming victims.

The international community must assign the necessary resources to implement efficient education programs.

We have expressed concern about terrorism for many years. Today we want to reiterate our rejection and repudiation of terrorism. Chileans are especially sensitive to terrorism because we continuously experience its cowardly and irresponsible attacks. We have often seen how some nations receive confessed terrorists who ask for political asylum.

If modern societies want to defeat terrorism and narcoterrorism, they will have to act decisively. Terrorists should not be given refuge or protection anywhere.

Some international organizations have permitted the systematic manipulation of the issue of human rights for political reasons. The parties involved in such manipulation have tried to include the legitimate right of a nation to defend itself from terrorism and subversion in the definition of human right violations. It is not that we deny the inalienable rights of people. We condemn the gross manipulation of the issue of human rights. This manipulation shows that those parties do not respect human rights themselves. Human rights should be respected by all nations without exception.

It is not fair to pass judgment on countries like Chile that had to struggle hard to overcome the difficulties created by terrorism and subversion. Terrorism set foot in Chile as a consequence of disruption in the institutional order between 1970 and 1973. Those passing judgment must consider the general situation that provoked the collapse of peaceful coexistence.

In Chile we have built a society in which human rights are protected not only by democratic institutions and the law, but also by the Chilean people's willingness to respect individual rights, values, and beliefs. Those rights are also protected by today's spirit of coexistence.

We have decided to build our future while looking at our own past. An amnesty law was promulgated in 1978. This law is the cornerstone of the process of pacification and unity we have gone through.

The amnesty law is a juridical instrument based on prudence, on reconciliation, and on the commitment to peace in Chile, which is the common goal of the majority of Chileans. We believe that it is necessary to leave the past behind for the benefit of everyone in the future. We must heal wounds, not reopen them. The Chilean people and government have the firm purpose of continuing to progress on the path of unity and peace, which everyone desires.

Mr President, international cooperation is the basis for peace and progress. The world is moving toward the creation of great commercial markets, such as the EEC. We look with hope toward the prospects that the 21st century will offer the nations capable of facing the challenge of the future. We hope that the large commercial agreements will inevitably extend to Latin America, that the tendency for greater economic freedom will prevail.

Chile wants an effective Latin American integration. It is necessary to review the current plans, which are based on the strategy of an artificial substitution of imports, restrictions on foreign investments, and highly protected and state regulated regional markets. We believe that the new plans should be based on the prevailing tendency of privatization, the elimination of custom barriers, free competition, and the establishment of a general agreeement that would lead the regions down the path of progress and toward the benefits of goods and services for everyone.

Conditions are suitable for achieving a real regional economic integration that would expand the agreements reached in Latin America and the Caribbean. Chile has made an effort to tailor its economy to those tendencies, on the conviction that a broad and modern integration is necessary to realize the promising prospects of Latin America.

We must say, however, that we are concerned that trade negotiations and the associations among industrialized countries could become, in practice, protectionist barriers to the rest of the world.

The recent incident of an unjust embargo against Chilean fruit exports, which for reasons that are still unknown briefly prevented our fruit from entering the international market, shows the complexities of our international trade and how the protectionist practices of developed countries can endanger the exports of developing countries and can greatly hurt their economies.

Our people want to join the larger trend toward world progress. We cannot accept humanitarian help as pay for protectionist practices that keep the economies of developing countries out of balance. We want equal opportunities—just and egalitarian treatment.

I am sure that my country, as well as many other countries, can grow and prosper if there is mutual respect. We could even successfully bear the heavy burden of our foreign debt.

A large foreign debt means important sacrifices in our standard of living. It also slows down internal production and consumption, not only in debtor countries, but also in creditor countries.

All parties involved in this circle must join efforts. We believe that the dollar price increase, the high international interest rates, and the developed countries' protectionist practices have triggered the present problem of our foreign debt.

The present cooperation among industrialized countries complements the old international organizations. Developing countries' interests are not properly represented in those organizations. The industrialized countries have not produced a monetary policy that is at once adequate for both them and the developing countries.

Mr. President, Chilean foreign policy is based on the principles of respect for international law and the goals of peace and cooperation. Our objectives are to promote our national interest within the community of nation and to promote the international common good.

Regarding our participation in international forums, we are firmly committed to promoting peace, friendship, and cooperation among states.

We live in the time of a dynamic process dedicated to maintaining the permanent values of liberty, justice, equality, and freedom.

International relations of the present and the future are marked by a growing rejection of ideologies, because the decisionmaking has become diffused. Relations among nations have become more and more interrelated as a consequence of the growing interdependence of all human activity. There is a new consensus that the role of the individual, his creative capacity, and his individual initiative, are dynamic elements of social process.

We live in a new era. We have left behind many difficult circumstances that seriously hamper cooperation among nations and human freedom. We have reasons to be optimistic.

We have a world full of opportunities ahead of us. Chile is willing to assume the challenge with the decision characteristic of a young nation, sure of itself. Thank you.

Students Protest Arrival of U.S. Toxic Waste

PY0410015089 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Text] A group of university students dumped trash at the entrance of the U.S. Consulate in Santiago to protest the arrival in Chile of ships carrying toxic waste to be processed in Antofagasta.

Fifty youths staged the ecologic protest this afternoon. One of them explained why they dumped trash at the entrance of the diplomatic delegation.

[Begin unidentified youth recording] The symbolic action of dumping waste here is meant to show these people how it feels to have waste dumped in our home, Chile, our land. As representatives of the north, they must learn how it feels to have trash dumped in their home. This foul smell symbolizes pain and death. [end recording]

A young woman read a declaration by the Students for Ecology, the group that organized the protest in front of the U.S. Consulate.

[Begin unidentified woman recording] In the face of the possible dumping of toxic waste in our territory, under the euphemism of processing it through a mineral recycling plant in Antofagasta, the Santiago University students have organized to express their repudiation. That is why we have gathered today in front of the U.S. Consulate to demand the withdrawal of the toxic waste. This is our first protest, and we will continue organizing until we achieve our objective. [end recording]

The students' message concludes by requesting the cooperation of the U.S. consul and the media to help solve this problem.

The reason for the ecologic protest is the installation of a processing plant for toxic waste from developed countries near Antofagasta. Four ships carrying toxic waste are expected to arrive in Antofagasta in the next few months. The students also protested the installation of a nuclear waste dump in southern Argentina.

Colombia

Bomb Attacks in Bogota, Cali Reported

PA0310173489 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1200 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Text] In the past few hours two serious terrorist attacks were staged against a video rental store and a drugstore in the north and central areas of Bogota. Although damage was extensive, no one was hurt in either attack.

An official report says that unidentified persons in a white vehicle threw a bomb at one of the branches of the Betatomio chain of video rental stores, located on 116th Avenue and Carrera 43, in the La Alhambra neighborhood in the northern part of the city. A linen shop and a beauty parlor were also heavily damaged, and the windows of several apartments were shattered. In the second attack, two individuals in a yellow public service vehicle threw a bomb against the Acuna drugstore located at Carrera 20 and 22d Avenue, in the Santa Fe neighborhood in central Bogota. This bomb damaged the building that houses the drugstore, destroyed a public telephone, and shattered the windows of some 30 homes in the area.

Meanwhile, Fernando Mosquera reports from Cali that bombs placed by terrorists at two businesses in the city were defused by experts from the Cali Metropolitan Police. One of the bombs was set up in the vicinity of the

Fruko company, and the other was placed at the entrance to a wine importing company located on Carrera 1 and 49th Street in the northeastern part of the city.

The police have arrested two suspects.

Extradition Decree Declared 'Constitutional'

PA0410003989 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 4 Oct 89

[Text] The Supreme Court ruled today that most of the decrees President Virgilio Barco issued to deal with the situation of public order in the country are constitutional. The decrees were issued on 18 August, the day Senator Luis Carlos Galan Sarmiento was assassinated.

Let us find out which decrees were approved and which were declared unconstitutional.

The Supreme Court declared the following decrees constitutional: administrative extradition, as long as there are public order problems and as long as the country is under a state of seige; the implementation of fines and procedures to punish people who are becoming rich through illegal means; and fines that are imposed for use of force to achieve a political outcome.

The Supreme Court declared the following decree unconstitutional: the system being used to raid, confiscate, occupy, and expropriate property.

According to the Supreme Court, the mechanism being used was administrative and it should be done judicially, by order of a judge.

ELN Blamed for Murder of Arauca Bishop

PA0310230689 Paris AFP in Spanish 2216 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Text] Bogota, 3 Oct (AFP)—The authorities of the eastern department of Arauca, in the oil producing sector of the country, have announced that Msgr Jesus Emilio Jaramillo was murdered and that his body was found today. The authorities blamed the leftist Army of National Liberation (ELN) guerrillas for the murder.

Yesterday several armed men kidnapped Jaramillo, the bishop of Arauca, and his assistant, Elmer Munoz, but later released the latter.

General Rafael Padilla, commander of the 2d Army Division, confirmed that Bishop Jaramillo died from two gunshots to the head. He blamed the ELN's Domingo Lain Front for the crime.

Gen Padilla praised Msgr Jaramillo's work over the past few years in favor of the poor in Arauca Department, but did not explain what reasons the guerrillas could have had for murdering the prelate.

This is the first time that a church official of such high ranking has been murdered in Colombia.

The ELN, the most active and violent guerrilla group in the country, has repeatedly rejected the offers of peace from the liberal administration of President Virgilio Barco. The ELN—which is led by Manuel Perez, a Spanish citizen and former priest—has made the country's oil infrastructure the main target of its terrorist activities.

Ecuador

Foreign Minister Assesses Panamanian Situation

PA0410041589 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0157 GMT 4 Oct 89

[Text] Quito, 3 Oct (EFE)—Commenting on the uprising against General Manuel Antonio Noriega today, Ecuadoran Foreign Minister Diego Cordovez said that Panamanians should resume the dialogue promoted by the OAS to put an end to the crisis they are suffering.

Cordovez, who returned to Quito today after participating in the 44th UN General Assembly, added that the beginning of talks among Panamanians "is the only formula to find a solution."

Troops loyal to Noriega today quelled a rebellion by military officers who identified themselves as "mid-ranking officers" and who tried to seize the Panama Defense Forces general headquarters in Panama City.

The Ecuadoran foreign minister was a member of the OAS mediating mission in the Panamanian crisis together with his colleagues from Guatemala, Mario Palencia; and Trinidad and Tobago, Sahadeo Basdeo, as well as OAS Secretary General Joao Baena Soares.

Cordovez said: "At the United Nations, the Latin American countries jointly stated, very clearly, that the Panamanian situation is of great concern to all countries and that we wish democracy will be consolidated in the area."

He stressed: "The political system of a country is a Latin American concern; therefore, we hope that the mechanisms to find a Panamanian solution will be established," and reiterated the need to respect the principle of nonintervention.

Oil Exports Resume; State of Emergency Continues

PA0310221089 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1521 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Text] Quito, 3 Oct (DPA)—Ecuador today resumed oil exports after a 6-day suspension that cost it $150 million in losses. This follows the oil workers strike and the transfer of the trans-Ecuadoran oil pipeline from the U.S.-owned Texaco to state-owned Ecuador Petroleum [Petroecuador].

The state of emergency declared by President Rodrigo Borja on Thursday, 28 September, to counteract the paralysis of the oil industry, which brings in more than half of Ecuador's total revenues, is still in effect.

The claim by 763 Texaco workers, who are demanding payment of compensation in the amount of $46.1 million, is also pending resolution.

Early today, two ships sailed out of the oil port of Balao, on the Pacific Ocean, marking the resumption of the Ecuadoran oil exports, which were suspended 27 September when the Texaco workers went on strike to demand payment of compensation for the transfer of the oil pipeline to Petroecuador.

A total of 300,000 barrels of oil are expected to be pumped today through the pipeline, which links the oil fields in the Amazon region with the port of Balao. Meanwhile, oil production is expected to return Thursday to its normal 254,000 barrels per day level established by OPEC.

A few hours after the Ecuadoran oil industry resumed operations, a fire of unknown origin broke out on a section of the pipeline. It caused pumping operations to be suspended and may affect plans to normalize exports.

Governor Reveals Plot Against Government

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[Text] Guayaquil, 3 Oct (DPA)—A plot headed by the most radical rightist sectors and scheduled for next Tuesday to provoke the fall of President Rodrigo Borja was reported today by the government, which strongly warned that "they should not play with fire."

"We are aware of everything," Guayas Province Governor Rafael Guerrero said, adding that the coupist plan "was to have culminated on 9 October [as received]," during the festivities of Guayaquil, Ecuador's largest city, a political bastion of the rightwing.

"The objective is to replace President Borja with Vice President (Luis) Parodi," the governor said, indicating that the plan includes a possible criminal attack. Nevertheless, the governor ruled out any possibility that Parodi might lend himself "to this type of scheme."

The most radical rightist sectors, led by Former President Leon Febres Cordero, announced in recent days that during the Guayaquil festivities, they will hold "marches and mobilizations" against the Social Democratic government, which they accuse of "increasing centralism" and of having "abandoned Guayaquil." They also warned that "Borja should not come."

President Borja announced he would be present in Guayaquil during the festivities, saying: "I do not need an invitation, because I have enough affection from the people and will be welcomed by them." Guayaquil Mayor Elsa Bucaram, a rightist populist, refused to invite the president, indicating that he "is not welcome here."

The opposition Democratic People's Movement (MPD), of the Maoist left, confirmed the governor's report, indicating that the plan "stems from those who control Guayaquil Municipality." The MPD has been repeatedly accused of working jointly with the Social Christian Party of Former President Febres Cordero.

"Our opposition is different," Deputy Juan Cardenas, MPD spokesman, said at noon. He confirmed that his party will participate in demonstrations against the government in Guayaquil on 7-9 October.

"If they want to protest, they should do it in a civilized manner," the Guayas Province governor said. He added that "the government will not tolerate any outrages."

Febres Cordero had said earlier this year that his party would "lead the opposition on the streets," as a response to the trial initiated by the Supreme Court against his son-in-law, who used to be presidential adviser during his administration. His son-in-law is accused of embezzling $150,000. "They will know who we are," the former president said.

The government, which took power in August 1988, has not faced significant opposition until now because the alliance between the Social Democrats and the Christian Democrats controls the congress, which has left the opposition parties with little political maneuvering room.

Paraguay

President Rodriguez To Meet Paz Zamora, Menem

PY0310164589 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 3 Oct 89 p 10

[Excerpt] According to a press report from La Paz, Bolivia, President Andres Rodriguez will meet with the presidents of Bolivia and Argentina, Jaime Paz Zamora and Carlos Saul Menem, respectively, on 20 October in the Argentine town of Salta, where the three presidents will attend the inauguration of the International Fair of Northwestern Argentina.

Reports from La Paz state that "Paz Zamora will meet this month with his colleagues from Argentina, Colombia, Paraguay, Peru, and Venezuela in different forums and places, within the framework of an active international relations program. [passage omitted]

Defense Minister on Ties With U.S., Chile

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[Text] Referring to the presence in Paraguay of Rear Admiral John R. Dalrymple, commander of the U.S. South Atlantic Fleet, Defense Minister General Angel Juan Souto Hernandez, retired, said yesterday at government palace that "since the change of government in our country, our relations with the United States have improved considerably." Yesterday Adm Dalrymple met with President Andres Rodriguez.

Asked about the presence in Paraguay of Rear Admiral Dalrymple, Minister Souto Hernandez stated that "at

this moment the U.S. Administration is again interested in granting technical assistance to Paraguay."

"The U.S. Navy commander is making a friendly visit to Paraguay. This is a friendly visit," he reiterated.

Rear Adm Dalrymple also met with President Rodriguez at Government House. He was accompanied by U.S. Ambassador Timothy Towell.

Referring to his recent visit to Chile, Souto Hernandez stated that Chile offered to supply training planes to the Paraguayan Air Force. "The planes are good for training pilots to fly modern aircraft," he said. He added: "The Chileans manufacture very good planes with good acceptance abroad. They are offering them to us, along with all the necessary support. They are also offering maintenance support to the Paraguayan Airlines planes. We are studying whether to accept these offers."

He went on to say that he was in Chile on occasion of the anniversary of the Chilean independence and at the special invitation of his Chilean counterpart Admiral Patricio Carvajal Prado. "I attended the military parade and held talks with several ministers and members of the government junta," he said.

"These people have expressed their satisfaction over the changes that have taken place in Paraguay, and they expressed their desire to cooperate with us in strengthening our friendly ties that, of course, still prevail between the Governments and Armed Forces of Paraguay and Chile," he said.

Asked whether bilateral cooperation will increase, Soto Hernandez stated: "Assistance and cooperation between our Armed Forces have always existed, and we are continously increasing this cooperation. I am not saying that this cooperation will increase, but this friendship and cooperation between us will always prevail," he concluded.